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CONTENTS

BURMA

- Karen Rebels Oust Bo Mya
(BANGKOK POST, 24 Jun 87) 1

FIJI

- Interim Government Given Wide Powers
(FIJI SUN, 17 Jun 87) 2
- Bavadra Supporter Calls for Peaceful Revolt
(FIJI SUN, 17 Jun 87) 3
- Ratu Mara Backs Chiefs
(FIJI SUN, 18 Jun 87) 4

INDONESIA

- Developments in Buyung Nasution Case Reported
(KOMPAS, 21, 23 May 87) 5
- Nasution To Sue Justice Minister 5
Legal Aid Institute's Position 6
- Industry Minister Speaks Out on Deregulation, Protectionism
(KOMPAS, 21 May 87) 8

Muhammadiyah on 'Racial Assimilation' (MERDEKA, 26 May 87)	10
Philippine President Urged To Solve Moro Problem (PELITA, 26 May 87)	11
Maj Gen August Marpaung Profiled (David Jenkins; TIMES ON SUNDAY, 21 Jun 87)	13
Biographic Information on Indonesian Personalities	15
LAOS	
Vientiane Chief Khambou Assails Western Influence, Asks Crackdown (Khambou Sounisai; VIENTIANE MAI, various dates)	17
Sisavat Keobounphan at Export-Import Corporation Meeting (VIENTIANE MAI, 24 Mar 87)	24
NEW ZEALAND	
Deputy Foreign Minister Defends Nuclear Free Zone (THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 19 Jun 87)	25
SUP Supports Return of Labor Government (THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 19 Jun 87)	26
Employment Minister Says Joblessness To Continue Rising (THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 20 Jun 87)	27
PHILIPPINES	
1,000 Communist Guerrillas, Shadow Government Surrender (Jay Valleser; THE NATION, 18 Jun 87)	28
Bigornia on NPA Collections During May 1987 Elections (MANILA BULLETIN, 5 Jun 87)	29
Cebu Cardinal Concerned Over Growth of Vigilantes (WE FORUM, 4 Jun 87)	30
Australian Visitor: Qadhdhafi Aids NPA, MNLF (Bayani Cruz; THE MANILA TIMES, 16 Jun 87)	31
Death Threats Against Cebu Anticommunists 'Uncovered' (SUN STAR DAILY, 30 May 87)	32
Cebu Dailies Hit Namfrel on Election Fraud, Violence (Editorials; SUN STAR DAILY, 14, 24 May 87)	33
Charges No Longer Dismissable	33
'Acceptable' Definition Urged	34

Pangasinan NPA Burn 6 Houses (THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR, 26 May 87)	35
Clergy, Rebel Ties Complicates Manila, Vatican Relations (THE MINDANAO MIRROR-BULLETIN, 18-24 May 87)	36
Contradictions Reported in Alsa Masa Killing of Surrenderee (THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR, 27 May 87)	37
Diplomats View Manila Reaction to USSR Penetration Efforts (THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR, 27 May 87)	38
Negros Civil-Military Council Continues Amnesty Efforts (THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR, 27 May 87)	39
Davao del Norte Amnesty Program Updated (THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR, 29 May 87)	40
Bishops, Businessmens Conference Urges Urban Land Reform (Lulu Principe; THE MANILA TIMES, 11 Jun 87)	41
Agribusiness Concerns Over Land Reform Expressed (MANILA BULLETIN, 2 Jun 87)	42
Davao Paper Urges Discussion of Land Reform Draft (Editorial; THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR, 29 May 87)	43
Davao Commander Implements AFP Reform Program (THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR, 29 May 87)	44
Davao Archbishop, Jesuits Condemn Alsa Masa Methods (MINDANAO TIMES, 28 May-4 Jun 87)	45
Provincial Weekly Reports NPA Activities, Losses (THE MINDANAO OBSERVER, 20, 27 Apr 87)	46
'Kangaroo Courts' Reported	46
Western Mindanao 'Legal' Head Arrested	46
Ex-Rebels Help Military	47
Inflationary Surge Seen With Oil Price Hikes (MANILA BULLETIN, 5 Jun 87)	49
Bataan NDF Official on Paramilitary Coercion of Civilians (Marvyn Benaning; THE MANILA TIMES, 9 Jun 87)	50
Impact of Urban Poor Continues To Press Aquino (Beng Allanigue; THE MANILA TIMES, 10 Jun 87)	51
'Peasant Organizer' Alleges Military Linked to Gambling (THE MANILA TIMES, 12 Jun 87)	53

Senior Officers Complain Constitution Shields Rebels (THE MANILA TIMES, 12 Jun 87)	54
Questions, Contrary Views Reported on Murder of Rebel Priest (THE MANILA TIMES, 13 Jun 87)	55
Columnist Criticizes Mixed Bureaucracy in Energy Policy (Mao Chanco; THE MANILA TIMES, 5 Jun 87)	56
Trade Secretary on Investment Code, U.S. Delegation (MANILA BULLETIN, 5 Jun 87)	58
Trade Secretary Seeks More Access To Japan (Ellen P. Samaniego; MANILA BULLETIN, 3 Jun 87)	59
Risk Consultancy Foresees Agriculture Growth, Economic Boost (THE MANILA TIMES, 14 Jun 87)	60
Weekly Hits Aquino on Ineffectual Rights Commission (Bernardo V. Lopez; MR & MS, 29 May-4 Jun 87)	63
Durano Outlines Scheme To Capture Cebu Political Leadership (Joe Quirino; THE MANILA TIMES, 3 Jun 87)	66
Editorial Lauds Public Service Unions, Opposes 'Agitators' (THE MANILA TIMES, 4 Jun 87)	67
Regulatory Chairman Says Sugar Cartel Talks Fail (Michael M. Alunan; MANILA BULLETIN, 5 Jun 87)	68
Reaction Mixed to Aquino Kin in Elective Office (Nick T. Enciso; MANILA BULLETIN, 4 Jun 87)	69
Politician Describes Method of Alleged Poll Cheating (Virgilio P. Robles; MANILA BULLETIN, 1 Jun 87)	70
Bataan Rebel on Religious Tolerance (Teresa Tunay; THE MANILA TIMES, 9 Jun 87)	71
Factions Debate Population, Life Quality Issues (MINDANAO TIMES, 28 May-4 Jun 87)	73

THAILAND

Army's Operations at Chong Bok Still Attract Criticism (Various sources, various dates)	75
Publisher Views Attacks on Army, by Rattana Yawapraphat	75
Columnist: Opposition Playing Politics, by Wanli Wanlop	76
Columnist Questions Army Explanation, by Chatawa Klinsunthon	77

Editorial Faults Army Explanation	79
Columnist Faults PAVN, Supports Opposition Doubts, by Ta Mo Lo	79
Army Reacts To Border War Criticism; Weaknesses Noted (Various sources, various dates)	81
Enlisted Man Comments, Chawalit Buys Dinner	81
Chawalit Defends Army Performance	82
General Criticizes Reporting	83
Draftee Comments on Desertions	84
Army Sources: Casualties Higher Than Admitted	85
Suranari Task Force Officer, Others Comment	86
Captain Comments on Tactics, by Puranit Bunyamanop	91
Officer: 'Vietnamese Better Than We Are', by Chamnan Suwanchawi	92
Opinion Makers Continue Attacks Against Copyright Law (Various sources, various dates)	93
Foreign Minister: U.S. Bullies Thailand	93
Editorial Backs Law With Reservation	95
Columnist: U.S. Is 'Spent Force' Economically, by Masuk Suankhwanpin	96
Columnist Assails Copyright Changes, by Mankon Halep	97
Editorial Blasts U.S.	98
Rival Student Groups' Politics; Leader Interviewed (KHAO PHISSET, 29 Apr-5 May 87)	101
Editorial: Prem Should Stand for Election (SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN, 1-16 May 87)	106
Background To Further F16 Purchase Discussed (LAK THAI, 7 May 87)	107

/7310

KAREN REBELS OUST BO MYA

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Jun 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

BURMESE ethnic rebels have elected a new leader, indicating they may cooperate more closely with communist insurgents, Reuters quoted sources close to the rebels as saying yesterday.

They said the National Democratic Front, a loose federation of nine nationalist groups meeting in northeast Burma, last Thursday elected as its chairman the ethnic Karen insurgent leader Saw Maw Reh.

The rebel groups, most of them based in mountainous terrain in north Burma, have been fighting Rangoon inconclusively since the country won independence from Britain in 1948.

Saw Maw Reh replaced Karen leader Bo Mya, who last August denounced a cooperation agreement reached four months before by

other NDF officials and the communists.

The sources said Saw Maw Reh was likely to play a figurehead role and was a compromise choice agreed on by several groups including the powerful Kachin ethnic group, who operate in the extreme north of the country near the borders with China and India.

The Kachin, believed to be currently fighting Burmese government troops who launched a powerful attack on their headquarters at Pa Jau last month, favour close cooperation with the communists despite ideological disagreements.

Bo Mya is understood to fear that the communists, who with some 10,000 guerrillas are more powerful than any single autonomy-seeking nationalist group, wish to dominate the NDF.

/13046

CSO: 4200/688

INTERIM GOVERNMENT GIVEN WIDE POWERS

Suva FIJI SUN in English 17 Jun 87 p 3

[Text]

THE interim Government has been given wide-ranging powers enabling it to control a variety of activities in order to protect people and strengthen the economy.

The implications of the powers mean that Government could order farmers to harvest cane, if that is necessary for the "economic or physical well being" of Fiji.

Government could order shopowners to sell items, get public transport operating, control prices of any goods sold, and pick up people for questioning.

And anyone disobeying such orders would be guilty of an offence punishable by a \$1000 fine and two years imprisonment.

These are parts of the emergency regulations published in the Fiji Royal Gazette on Friday and giving the Government sweeping powers in the control of supplies and services in the country.

Called the Public Emergency (Maintenance of Supplies and Services) Regulations, 1987, it gives the Government the right to:

- direct the performance of employment in essential and necessary services
- control sales, etc of supplies
- regulate transport priority
- get information from people

The gazette says "essential service" means any essential service listed in the

Schedule to the Trades Disputes Act, Chapter 97.

"Necessary services," the gazette says, "means a service in connection with the maintenance of order, the supply or distribution of food, water, fuel or light, or for maintaining the means of communication or locomotion."

It also covers the ensuring of public safety and the "economic or physical well being of the community or any section of the community or of Fiji as a whole".

These regulations allow the Governor-General, the Permanent Secretary of Finance and the Permanent Secretary for Employment and Industrial Relations to order people in essential and necessary services to continue normal work on normal pay.

They can also get people from outside to do the work and be paid for it.

In short, the cane farmers can now be ordered under law to harvest their crop. The Government can also bring in outsiders to do the work if necessary.

The Governor-General, the Permanent Secretary for Finance and the Prices and Incomes Board can also order controls on prices and the supplies and sales of goods.

They can also demand information on stocks, and stop sales.

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CSO: 4200/687

BAVADRA SUPPORTER CALLS FOR PEACEFUL REVOLT

Suva FIJI SUN in English 17 Jun 87 p 5

[Text]

SUPPORTERS of deposed Prime Minister Dr Timoci Bavadra are planning a campaign of mass civil disobedience in Fiji to oppose the Governor-General's month-old interim government, former Justice Minister Jai Ram Reddy said in New Delhi yesterday.

"We will have rallies, civil disobedience . . . everything to oppose the army rule," Mr Reddy told reporters after two days of talks with India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Natwar Singh.

"I am prepared to do anything peacefully," he added. "And we will accept nothing short of the restoration of the government that was overthrown."

Dr Bavadra's National Federation Party-Labour Coalition government, dominated by ethnic Indians, was ousted in a bloodless coup on May 14 by the military.

Coup leader Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka has ruled out future domination of political institutions by citizens of Indian origin.

Mr Reddy, 50, was one of three deposed Coalition ministers who accompanied Dr Bavadra to London for a week, where they held discussions with the chief of the Commonwealth, Dr Shridath Ramphal, and close aides of Queen Elizabeth. He arrived in New Delhi on Saturday.

Dr Bavadra, in the United States to seek support, said the party would later travel to Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Reddy, whose parents migrated to Fiji from southern India, said he was happy with New Delhi's stand, but described the positions of Australia and New Zealand as the best.

Canberra and Wellington have come out strongly against the coup and de-

manded the return of Dr Bavadra's government.

India has expressed concern at the coup and has said it is in touch with Australia and New Zealand about the Fiji situation.

Mr Reddy said he had had three rounds of "useful discussions" with Mr Singh, who was "generally supportive". But he refused to go into details.

Mr Reddy was flanked at the news conference by legal adviser Bhupendra Patel. The two are expected to meet Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi today.

Also present was India's former Foreign Secretary, AP Venkateshwaran, who was New Delhi's first envoy to Suva.

"We are very much hoping that India would make the Commonwealth impose sanctions against Fiji," he said adding that Fiji's economy was in ruins and the tourism and sugar industries had collapsed.

"Yes, the sanctions will affect everybody, but that's the price you pay for freedom," he said. Several thousand ethnic Indians had left Fiji since the coup, he added.

Mr Reddy rejected reports that the military coup in Fiji had been engineered from outside and that the deposed government was anti-West and pro-Soviet.

"Though there has been much speculation, I am convinced it was planned from within.

"But there was no question of our government undermining the interests of Americans. In fact, we had made it clear we would have no truck with the Soviets."

Mr Reddy and Mr Patel were scheduled to leave for Canberra and Wellington today. — AFP.

RATU MARA BACKS CHIEFS

Suva FIJI SUN in English 18 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] RATU SIR KAMISESE MARA said yesterday he supported proposed changes to the Constitution to strengthen Fijian leadership and safeguard Fijian interests.

Opening the Lau Provincial Council meeting in Suva, Ratu Sir Kamisese said he did not think the existing Constitution adequately protected Fijian interests. The meeting, which was closed to the press except Radio Fiji, will continue today.

Ratu Sir Kamisese made his views on the current Constitutional debate for the first time.

He is the Tui Lau, Sauti Vunua ko Lau, or paramount chief of Lau. He led the country as Prime Minister since Independence in 1970 until his defeat in the April general election.

Ratu Sir Kamisese warned of secret attempts to try and divide the Fijians.

He advised the Launis who had packed the Fijian Teachers Association headquarters in Knolly Street to support the Great Council of Chiefs' resolutions about changes to the Constitution.

Ratu Sir Kamisese said during his 16 years of leadership in the Alliance he was accused of favouring the Indians.

He said there was no basis for this accusation.

Perhaps, he said, his attempts to try and secure new sugar markets overseas, might have led people to form an opinion.

He said Indians had become successful

financially because they worked hard.

He said the Fijians lost the April general election because they were divided while the Indians remained united.

He said Fijians should accept this reason instead of looking for other excuses.

Ratu Sir Kamisese is one of the architects of the present Constitution which was signed in London in 1970.

He had defended it against critics such as Fijian Nationalist Party leader Sakeasi Butadroka.

Mr Butadroka called for a Constitutional change to guarantee that Fijians will always lead this country.

The same sentiments were expressed in the Great Council of Chiefs meeting after the May 14 military coup.

• Ba lawyer Dr Samshud Din Sahu Khan, who has been reading the Constitution, discusses two ways he thinks the Constitution can be changed on pages 10 and 11 today.

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CSO: 4200/687

INDONESIA

DEVELOPMENTS IN BUYUNG NASUTION CASE REPORTED

Nasution To Sue Justice Minister

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 21 May 87 p 1

[Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS--Attorney Adnan Buyung Nasution, whose license to practice has been suspended for a year, declared that his intention to uphold the aspirations of a constitutional state has not changed and that he will take every legal route available to him to defend himself. In a written statement sent from Utrecht, Holland, on Wednesday [20 May], Buyung stated he will therefore sue or bring charges against the government, specifically the minister of justice [MENKEH]. He considers his penalty to be contradictory to principles of liberty in the legal profession and to the fundamentals of a constitutional state.

He also considers the action of the MENKEH to be a blow at him personally, in that it takes away his work as an attorney, which is his rightful livelihood as guaranteed by Article 27, Section 2, of the 1945 UUD [Constitution].

Adnan Buyung Nasution said that although he had not received the ruling made with regard to him he was compelled to issue a response, since his case has been publicized widely at home and internationally.

He noted that on 8 April he had written to the MENKEH, asking that the MENKEH not take the action against him because such action would be in violation of a number of legal principles that apply in all modern states.

Buyung also said his letter was accompanied by sincere advice from various international bodies and organizations, such as the International Committee of Jurists in Geneva, the International Bar Association in London, the Netherlands Society of Attorneys in The Hague, the Regional Council of Human Rights in Manila, and even a group representing 102 U.S. congressmen and 20 U.S. senators, plus several attorney organizations in other countries.

Legal Aid Institute's Position

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 23 May 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Jakarta, KOMPAS--The Indonesian LBH [Legal Aid Institute] is willing to be legal counsel for attorney Adnan Buyung Nasution, SH [Master of Laws], in bringing charges related to his suspension from practicing law against the MENKEH as representative of the government.

T. Mulya Lubis, SH, LLM, chairman of the Executive Council of the Indonesian LBH, made that statement to reporters on Friday [22 May] with regard to Buyung's plan to bring charges against the minister and the minister's willingness to be charged.

"We are preparing a legal counsel team, as Buyung requested in a phone call from Holland on Thursday night [21 May]. We are now merely awaiting power of attorney papers and drafting of charges," said Mulya when asked when the charges will be submitted to the court.

MENKEH Ismail Saleh, SH, said himself on Thursday that Buyung certainly may bring charges against him as representative of the government, for such charges are not a new thing. It is the right of an individual to charge the government if he feels the government has made a decision that is detrimental to him. "As for the substance of it, we will have to wait. The court will be the one to examine it," said Ismail Saleh.

The decision to suspend Buyung from the practice of law for 1 year is considered an interesting matter in many circles, not only because it is the first contempt of court case but also because it is the first ruling handed down by a minister of justice directly.

Buyung, who has a reputation for being vocal, reacted to the decision immediately from Holland by sending a statement via telex, which was addressed to KOMPAS, among others. He sees the decision as contrary to principles of liberty in the legal profession and as a deviation from the fundamentals of a state of law.

Retroactive

That was confirmed by a written statement issued by the Indonesian LBH following a meeting on Thursday night. According to Mulya Lubis, who read the statement, the minister's decision has no legal basis in either form or substance.

The statement discussed again the three laws on which the decision was based. According to the LBH, the use of Law 2/1986 on general judicial matters, for example, violates a legal principle ("post factum law"), because the law did not go into effect until 8 March 1986, which was 2 months after the sensational court incident. "Retroactive use of a law clearly violates legal principles," Mulya stated.

Use of Law 14/1985 regarding the Supreme Court is also inappropriate, because it stipulates that the duties of attorneys related specifically to judicial matters are under the oversight of the Supreme Court rather than the minister of justice. Furthermore, in the opinion of the Indonesian LBH, the oversight of attorneys is not dealt with at all in Law 14/1970, which was also used as a basis for the decision.

He also said that if the KUHP [Penal Code] had been applied to Buyung, his penalty for disrupting the court would have been a reprimand or expulsion from the courtroom. If the action were of a criminal nature, criminal charges could be placed. "In this case, however, court records made no note of such action," said Mulya, quoting the statement of the Indonesian LBH.

Moreover, he continued, Buyung has never been tried through any procedure to establish whether there had been contempt of court in the incident. "And it is unjust and unfair for Buyung to be further punished by suspension after IKADIN [Indonesian Attorneys Association] had penalized him with a severe reprimand. Although the minister's decision was administrative, it is still punitive in essence," Mulya continued.

Mafia Issue

He also considers the decision to be a reflection of inconsistency in the oversight of attorneys. No action at all was taken in the "Judicial Mafia" case, in which the conduct of attorney S.C. was proved in "black and white," declared Mulya.

The "Judicial Mafia" case he referred to involved the revelation of a written statement by S.C. and three colleagues in June 1986, in which they promised to seek an acquittal in return for a payment of 115 million rupiahs. The case, which was handled by the IKADIN Honorary Council, stalled when S.C. resigned from membership in IKADIN. "That leaves the impression Buyung is being punished intentionally," said Mulya, who was accompanied by attorneys H.J.C. Princen and Luhut M.P. Pangaribuan, SH.

6942

CSO: 4213/90

INDONESIA

INDUSTRY MINISTER SPEAKS OUT ON DEREGULATION, PROTECTIONISM

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 21 May 87 p 1

[Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS--In its efforts to expand industrial exports, the Department of Industry will proceed with deregulation. New rules on deregulation are to be issued soon for the purpose of improving the business climate in the industrial sector. Protection also will be more limited and will be accomplished through a system of import tariffs, which will be reduced incrementally to an optimal level. Guidelines for tariff reductions will be issued periodically. This relaxation of protection is needed if domestic industry is to be efficient and competitive in international markets.

"Exports are top priority, for, besides improving foreign exchange revenues, they create job opportunities that can no longer be postponed," Minister of Industry Engr Hartarto told KOMPAS last week in Jakarta.

In fact, recent observations in the field have found that industries successful in exports are able to survive and even expand. This indicates that the weakness is in domestic markets, whereas export markets remain extensive. The number of industries exporting also continues to grow, showing an increased awareness by businessmen of export markets, which afford new hope.

The devaluation in September 1986 also contributed to the recent expansion of industrial exports, which disproves the view that industry was not ready to benefit from devaluation. Time was needed to take advantage of the decline of the rupiah against the dollar, but the proof is now in.

This is gratifying, for it corresponds with the government's program. The role remaining for the government is to provide a climate for business and to give general guidance. Businessmen themselves are the players who take advantage of the opportunities.

"Private businessmen don't need to be tutored. They are able to do business as long as they are afforded a favorable climate," he said. He added that truly successful businessmen do not talk very much, for they are quietly planning their strategies.

To illustrate the success of industrial exports, he pointed out that exports in 1986 reached \$3.95 billion, a 12.8 percent increase over the previous year. The largest share of exports was taken by the miscellaneous industry sector, which held 76.7 percent. Exports surged in November and December after devaluation. A total of 285 industrial commodities were exported. Overall, the value of industrial exports (plus exports by primary industries outside the purview of the Department of Industry) reached \$4.4 billion, or 67.7 percent of Indonesian nonoil exports.

All these figures were obtained from the BPS (Central Statistics Bureau) and were also presented by Engr Bisuk Siahaan, chief of the Data Processing and Analysis Center of the Department of Industry. The minister in fact dared to state a 1987 export target of \$5 billion to \$5.5 billion. "These figures are not fabricated but are based on calculations," Hartarto stated.

6942

CSO: 4213/90

INDONESIA

MUHAMMADIYAH ON 'RACIAL ASSIMILATION'

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 26 May 87 p 3

[Text] Jakarta, Monday [25 May], ANTARA--Muhammadiyah has been practicing integration for 30 years and is not acquainted with the term "assimilation."

H. Lukman Harun, deputy chairman of the Muhammadiyah Central Executive Board, made that statement at the Jakarta Islamic Hospital on Saturday night [23 May] in a fast-breaking get-together. The program was held jointly by Muhammadiyah directors and prominent Chinese Muslims associated with the Development of Islamic Faith in the Oneness of God (PITI) under the leadership of Drs H. Yunus Yahya.

Muhammadiyah wants to cooperate with PITI leaders in heightening the esteem of Islam in Indonesia, "because the issue of Islam is an issue for us to handle together."

Lukman Harun said Islam actually reached mainland China before coming to Indonesia, as evidenced by a hadith of the Prophet that states, "Go as far as China in seeking knowledge."

He said that many historic Islamic monuments dating from the Ming Dynasty have been found in China and that people in mainland China have long practiced the exchange of science and technology.

Drs H. Yunus Yahya, general chairman of PITI, welcomed the offer of cooperation between Muhammadiyah and PITI, which previously was known as the Indonesian-Chinese Islamic Association.

Yunus Yahya took the opportunity to introduce prominent Chinese Muslims who have graduated from IAIN [State Islamic Institute] and several people who often give lectures.

According to Yunus Yahya, the number of Chinese Muslims is constantly increasing, especially among young people, whose interest in studying Islam is continuing to grow. That increase is a result of the government's policy on integration, which has long been put into practice, he said.

6942

CSO: 4213/90

INDONESIA

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT URGED TO SOLVE MORO PROBLEM

Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian 26 May 87 pp 1, 5

[Text] Jakarta, PELITA--Drs Lukman Harun, chairman of the Islamic Solidarity Committee urged President Aquino to make an immediate and effective decision to settle the problem of the Islamic community in the Southern Philippines in the best possible way. He said that only President Aquino, with her spirit of statesmanship, will be able to surmount the stalemate in talks between the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Lukman Harun made that statement in connection with peace efforts now being made by the Philippine government to settle the Moro problem. Following last month's stalemate in the talks, President Aquino's special envoy, Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez, visited several ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] capitals to talk with other ASEAN leaders and to discuss a Moro settlement. ASEAN leaders generally support President Aquino's efforts toward solving the problem.

Apply the Tripoli Accord

Lukman Harun, who is also a member of the Muhammadiyah PP [Central Executive Board], said the most appropriate way to solve the Moro problem is to reapply the Tripoli Accord, which was reached in 1976 while President Marcos was still in power in the Philippines.

The accord was signed by then Philippine Minister of Defense Carmero Z. Barbero and MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari and was witnessed by Libyan Foreign Minister Dr Ali Abdul Salam and Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization Karim Gai. It was agreed in the accord to form an autonomous government over 13 provinces in the Southern Philippines. Both the Philippine government and the MNLF thereby have a responsibility to comply with the accord to the fullest.

If the autonomy question is presented to the newly elected Philippine Congress, Lukman fears it will be rejected, because members of Congress are generally not Moros or Muslims.

When President Marcos was in power, the Islamic community in the Southern Philippines was disappointed over Marcos' manipulation of the Tripoli Accord,

which resulted in failure to give autonomy. Hopes are now on the shoulders of President Corazon Aquino.

"If Cory doesn't act quickly and appropriately, I fear the Islamic community in the Southern Philippines will be disappointed yet again," stated Lukman.

6942

CSO: 4213/90

MAJ GEN AUGUST MARPAUNG PROFILED

Broadway TIMES ON SUNDAY in English 21 Jun 87 p 14

[Article by David Jenkins]

[Text]

THE Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, Major-General August Marpaung, leaves this country early next month after a three-year stint in Canberra. We should all be sorry to see him go.

August Marpaung — and it will do him no good at all for me to say this — has been one of the most successful Indonesian ambassadors to Australia, a voice of moderation and reason at a time when bilateral relations have been through a particularly rough patch.

The ambassador, as even his friends would readily admit, is not your typical diplomat. A stocky man, rumpled and overweight, with an awkward gait and a wheeze in his voice caused by incessant chain-smoking, he seems anything but the very model of the modern major-general. But Marpaung, there can be no doubt, was uniquely suited to the job. His affable manner and disarming bluntness disguise astuteness and craft; his joviality and general bonhomie belie an intelligent and tough-minded personality and a flair for analysis.

Marpaung has always been passionately Indonesian; you could never shake him on a fundamental point. But his great strength was that he was always prepared to buy-in on contentious issues. He did not, unlike many of his predecessors, take the view that in troubled times the best strategy was to burrow deep into the ground and lie low.

Marpaung is the sort of man who goes out to meet a problem head on. He made it his job not just to report on

this country to Indonesia but — and this has been at least equally important — to explain Indonesia's point of view to Australia. He did so tirelessly and wherever it seemed appropriate — in the corridors of the Foreign Affairs Department, in the parliamentary lobbies, on university campuses, at ALP conferences, at the National Press Club, and on *The Carlton/Walsh Report*, anywhere, in fact, where people had questions to ask about Indonesian policy.

This willingness to deal with Australians on their own terms, to confront the issues and explain Indonesia's viewpoint, has almost certainly been to Indonesia's advantage. There are some in Jakarta, diplomats of the old school, who feel that this is altogether the wrong approach. They would prefer that an ambassador said no more than was necessary to put across the party line.

Curiously enough, it was the party line that brought Marpaung closest to the precipice. At times he pushed New Order orthodoxies as far as discretion would admit, partly no doubt because he is a firm believer in those orthodoxies. Some of his observations on human-rights abuses and the rule of law were simply knee-jerk expositions of a New Order line and did little to enhance his credibility or that of the Government he represented.

What is curious is that he was allowed to get away with such a lot. Having warmed to his personality, his Australian listeners, including a number on the Left, politely ignored some of the more outlandish remarks, like his reported suggestion that the belated

execution of political detainees was somehow an affirmation of Indonesia's concern for human rights, the prisoners having been allowed to stay alive for 20 years after the alleged crime.

And this provides the clue to the nature of the man. Marpaung, although decidedly unmartial in appearance and not at all your common or garden Indonesian diplomat, *is* very much the model of the modern Indonesian major-general. He is exactly what the Indonesian Army is on about.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia (ABRI), born of the revolutionary struggle against the Dutch, has assigned itself a role as both a military and a social-political force, with no rigid distinctions between the two. Marpaung, like so many of his fellow officers, has moved with ease from one side of the ship to the other. He started out as a youthful guerilla fighter, became a military lawyer and intelligence officer, was Rector of Cendrawasih University in Irian Jaya, the head of Antara, the national news agency, the driving force behind the nation's international public-relations unit and its number-two man at the United Nations.

Indonesia has sent us a number of good ambassadors over the past quarter century, but three in particular stand out. The first was Lieutenant-General R. A. Kosasih, whose three-year appointment (1964-68) spanned President Soekarno's ill-considered Confrontation of Malaysia and the difficult early years of the New Order Government of General Soeharto.

The second was Major-General Her Tasning, whose time in Canberra (1973-76) spanned not just the Whitlam years but the downturn in relations that followed the 1975 Indonesian invasion of East Timor. The third was Marpaung.

All three have served at difficult times in the relationship. All three have gone out and met the challenge head on, resisting the temptation to become cocooned in the small circle of people who know about Indonesia. It may or may not be significant that none of these three men was Javanese. Kosasih was Sundanese, Her Tasning Buginese, and Marpaung a Batak.

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON INDONESIAN PERSONALITIES

MAJ GEN DRS SLAMET SIDHIK PERMANA, EAST JAVA POLICE CHIEF--Police Maj Gen Drs Soebagya will transfer the position of East Java Police Chief to his successor, Police Maj Gen Drs Slamet Sidhik Permana, in Surabaya on Wednesday morning, 10 June. Before his appointment to the position of East Java Police Chief, Police Maj Gen Drs Slamet Sidhik Permana served as North Sumatra Police Chief. The previous East Java Police Chief was transferred to Police Headquarters to take on the post of head of the Police Academy (PTIK), replacing Police Maj Gen Drs M. Soedarto, who is preparing to retire. Maj Gen Slamet, a two-star general, began his carrier in the Indonesian Police Force as a PTIK student. He is a graduate of the seventh class, graduating with Police Gen Moch. Sanoesi, chief of the Indonesian Police Force, with Police Maj Gen Drs Bobby Rachman, Indonesian Police Force deputy for operations, and with Police Maj Gen Drs Achmad Djuaeni, Indonesian Police Force deputy for administration. Before becoming North Sumatra Police Chief, Slamet, who is 52 years old, was Indonesian Police Force director of investigation. [Excerpts] [Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 9 Jan 87 pp 1, 12] 9846

MAJ GEN ASMONO, COMMANDER OF KODAM I/BUKIT BARISAN--Indonesian Army Maj Gen Asmono was inaugurated as Commander of KODAM [Military Region Command] I/Bukit Barisan on 6 June 1987, replacing Indonesian Army Maj Gen Ali Geno. He is the fourth commander of this command after it was reorganized 3 years ago. The first was Indonesian Army Maj Gen Soeripto, now commander of KOSTRAD [Army Strategic Reserves Command]. His successor was the late Indonesian Army Maj Gen Djarot, who was killed in a helicopter accident more than a year ago. Asmono, who has been a two-star general for only a week, graduated from the AKM (National Military Academy) in Magelang in 1961. While he was an AMN cadet, he was a classmate of Indonesian Army Maj Gen Soegito, military region commander for Greater Jakarta, and of Indonesian Army Maj Gen Faisal Tanjung, who is military region commander of Tanjung Pura. Before his promotion to commander of KODAM I/Bukit Barisan, Asmono was Chief of Staff of KODAM V/Brawijaya, East Java. He has also been intelligence assistant for KOWILHAN [Defense Area Command] I/Sumatra/West Kalimantan. He has also served in the Cavalry Battalion, a branch of service he chose long ago. He also had a long-term operational task in East Timor. Asmono is well-known as a simple person. "He is hard and firm. He doesn't compromise, especially when it comes to discipline," said a Major who once served under Asmono's leadership when he was commander of the AMN cadets' battalion between 1971 and 1973. "If even one cadet did something wrong, Asmono made the entire battalion do

somersaults. If it was a matter of a dirty weapon, the guilty cadet was in real trouble, and all of us got punished for what he did. For him there was no bargaining with the equipment which had been entrusted to us cadets by the government; we always had to take good care of it. If not, well, we knew what would happen," the major remembered. This is what Asmono is like, simple; but strength and firmness in discipline are part of his spirit. It is fitting and right that KODAM I/Bukit Barisan, well-known as a tough and forbidding area for some people, has gotten a commander like Asmono. [Text] [Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSENJAT in Indonesian 10 Jun 87 p 6] 9846

CSO: 4213/92

VIENTIANE CHIEF KHAMBOU ASSAILS WESTERN INFLUENCE, ASKS CRACKDOWN

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25 Mar 87

[Column signed by Khambou Sounisai, administrative chairman of Vientiane city, dated 26 February 1987]

[17 Mar 82 p 2]

[Text] I. Summary of Observations About the Condition of Art and Culture in Vientiane City at the End of 1986 and the Beginning of 1987

A. Conditions in general:

At the end of 1986 and during January 1987, it could be seen that our enemies still have not given up their schemes to destroy the art and culture of Vientiane city. They utilize the special aspects of the capital's society to wage their fierce psychological warfare on the art and culture. Their goal is to encourage extravagant living in order to make the masses lose interest in production and adopt the decadent culture of the West. They want to spread boredom and drunkenness. Another of their goals is to eradicate the beautiful culture of Laos step-by-step.

Their method is to use night clubs, various types of celebrations and some bad amateur artistic groups to spread the degenerate Western music and dancing of the imperialists and reactionaries, such as rock and roll dancing, embracing in public, etc.

B. Conditions at Festivals, Gatherings and Parties

Good Points:

It appears that the artistic and cultural drive to honor the Fourth Party Congress proceeded joyously.

The holding of traditional festivals by the majority of the people in every village and locality under the leadership of those responsible for grassroots cultural affairs proceeded well.

Weak Points:

Parties are operated for profit with Western dancing and the selling of liquor and drinks go on nonstop with no order at all; they are not conducted in

accordance with our laws; they promote extravagance, wasting time, weariness, a loss of interest in production and the adoption of a degenerate Western culture that corrupts and intoxicates the young people and the masses.

They do not do anything for our culture. The operators just want to make a profit from selling liquor and beer. This has damaged our culture. They do not observe the closing time set by our officials; they stayed open until late at night or early in the morning.

C. Conditions at Restaurants:

It appears that the number of state, cooperative and private restaurants has increased.

[18 Mar 87 p 2]

[Excerpt] There were some that were decorated with colored lights and were quite dark where tapes were played, Western dances were danced, and people embraced improperly. They had not received permission from the responsible administrative branch. In addition, some of these places included secret prostitution.

D. Condition of Entertainment Arts:

Weak Points:

Some groups of amateur artists--for example, the music groups of offices, organizations, ministries, localities and private individuals--presented shows that were distasteful and improper, such as the use of music for the decadent, Western-style dancing of reactionaries and its dissemination among the masses as extravagant entertainment. This was not done in accordance with the list of permitted activities, it was not on the list of activities scheduled by officials; in addition, some private groups of artists did not register with any organization but secretly performed for the masses in a distasteful and incorrect manner.

Furthermore, the announcers for these groups of amateur artists generally did not provide publicity serving the political goals of the party and state at all. On the contrary the publicity was distasteful, and sometimes it was even double-edged.

E. Organizing Construction and Administration:

It seems that we still have not done as much as we should, especially in eliminating and resisting the decadent art and culture of the imperialists

[19 Mar 87 p 2]

[Text] and reactionaries in a timely fashion. Our enemies are still using the arts, night clubs and various festivals to wage fierce psychological warfare on our culture in Vientiane city. For example, they sabotaged the

various regulations stipulated by our officials by adopting music for degenerate Western-style dancing and spreading it among the masses. By presenting these extravagant amusements, they caused the masses to lose interest in production, destroyed domestic solidarity, etc.

Course of Events:

The enemy attacked us with determination, and we took this lightly, not unified in leadership; we still had not absorbed the policies of the party or understood the struggle between the two paths, socialism and capitalism, over who will win on the ideological and cultural battlefield. In addition, we were still unaware of the psychological tactics of the enemy.

These circumstances caused unfavorable repercussions and hurt us a great deal, primarily with regard to our culture and society. Therefore we must adopt methods to correct them.

In order to correct the deficiencies and weak points and to achieve victory on the cultural battlefield, we must firmly adhere to these objectives and approaches:

II. Objectives:

To carry out regulation 09/PSL of the Council of Ministers issued on 8 February 1985 and the order of the Ministry of Culture for effectively organizing the administration of art and culture with the goal of putting Vientiane city in order with regard to culture and society so that it is civilized, clear-sighted and achieves steady progress.

To destroy and resist the decadent, degenerate art and culture of the imperialists and reactionaries.

To improve the condition of the distasteful fairs and night clubs organized by groups and individuals and put them in order.

In addition, to expand the art and culture drives in Vientiane city and to make them happy, traditional events which serve the political goals of the party and encourage production--namely, paying the agriculture tax in rice to the state, selling rice to the state, cultivating dry season rice, defending the nation and the peace, reclaiming

[20 Mar 87 p 2]

[Text] the beautiful cultural heritage of the nation and steadily building a new socialist culture.

III. Solutions:

First, we must agree to be unified in solving these problems and to cooperate with the administrative branches involved. We must absorb the policies of the state with regard to culture and understand our fierce struggle with the

enemy on the cultural battlefield. In order to achieve these solutions, we must decide to do the following:

1. We must carry out temporary regulation 09/PSL of the Council of Ministers issued on 8 February 1985 concerning the administration and control of cultural activities.
2. We must carry out the order of the Ministry of Culture and follow the various announcements and regulations adopted by Vientiane city for controlling culture within the city.
3. The party committees and administrative committees of the districts must take care to strengthen the district-level and grassroots cultural networks so that they assume responsibility for cultural activities.
4. State, cooperative and private restaurants must operate in accordance with the recommendations of the branch for cultural administration so that everything is in the open; nothing is to be done in secret; there is to be no secret prostitution to make money and no Western-style dancing.
5. Every cultural undertaking directed toward the masses in Vientiane city (such as night clubs and celebrations) must be coordinated with the cultural service of Vientiane city (at the city level). At the district level, the district cultural committee must investigate and give permission so that the undertakings operate correctly, in accordance with permits.
6. Parties with loud speakers at night clubs and festivals or celebrations must stop at 2330 hours (11:30 at night) in conformity with regulation 09/PSL of the Council of Ministers issued on 8 February 1985 in order to maintain the health of the people and avoid disturbing the sleep of the Lao people and foreigners.

[21 Mar 87 p 2]

[Excerpt] 7. At festivals, whether they are temple fairs, house parties or some other kind of party, there is to be no taking advantage by organizing gambling or games to defraud the people (only those games will be allowed which are in the form of a sport and which cultural officials of Vientiane city have actually inspected and approved).

Methods of Correction Lie in Three Areas

In correcting cultural activities we must use three approaches:

1. Primarily use culture to correct culture.
 2. Use education and training as the core.
 3. Treat administration as an important means.
1. Methods of Using Culture To Correct Culture:

With regard to cultural as well as other activities, when an old activity is abolished or reformed, something new must be created to replace it. This means

that when an old cultural activity that is not good is abolished, then some new, progressive and civilized cultural activity must be created to replace it. For example:

If we want to correct the distasteful night clubs that individuals and groups have set up, we must set up a cultural club as an example which will provide an alternative. These clubs should have a happy atmosphere, educate the people, assure improved physical and mental health, and serve the political goals of the party (see document No 111/V.Th.).

We must present both professional and amateur artistic events regularly for the people, either out in the open or in a hall. We must adopt

[23 Mar 87 p 2]

[Excerpt] programs related to the nation or the masses in order to create a happy atmosphere among the masses. In the past 10 years we have seen that our songs and dances, which are beautiful and have a national character, have not been disseminated (on the contrary, during this period primarily those of other nations have been disseminated, especially from the West).

2. Methods of Education:

First of all, we must take care to educate the cadres, combatants, workers and people so that they absorb the party's policies with regard to culture and are able to recognize the dangers in our fierce cultural battle with the enemy.

We must do this so that they recognize the dangers and the repercussions of the decadent Western culture. We have already seen that under the old regime the imperialists and reactionaries disseminated decadent Western culture in Vientiane city and what effect this had on the people and the children and grandchildren. It brought forth countless hippies, gigolos, hooligans, prostitutes and hustlers and led them to kill and steal, break and enter--there are hundreds of cases lined up each day. In addition, it caused the young people to lose their humanity, and it made people lazy and uninterested in production. There were repercussions in other areas too numerous to describe.

If we continue to adopt the decadent Western culture for entertainment, what other repercussions will there be?

[24 Mar 87 p 2]

[Excerpt] With regard to gambling or taking advantage by gambling at various festivals, we must educate people by demonstrating how bad this is for individuals and for society.

The two methods (using culture to correct culture and education) are very good methods. Therefore we must take care to use them regularly.

3. Methods of Administration:

In every area of activity there are regulations for the administration of that activity. In the area of cultural activities, there are the resolutions and regulations of the Council of Ministers and various orders and recommendations of the Ministry of Culture and Vientiane city. These are the laws of the nation.

During the past 10 years we have announced and organized instructions for the masses on a very broad basis, but the actual implementation of these regulations was difficult and chaotic because we took lightly these activities and did not take care to proceed effectively. On the contrary, there were frequent violations.

In order to have everyone carry out the regulations on cultural activities effectively, it appears that it will be necessary to correct the method of administration in all respects. Therefore we must inspect the cultural and artistic activities in Vientiane city completely. For example:

We must inspect the night clubs run for profit and the groups or individuals running them to see what they are doing right and wrong. This must be done responsibly and effectively with regard to

[25 Mar 87 p2]

[Text] the economy and the culture. This does not mean that we should just consider economic results and not cultural damage. If we want to proceed properly, we must proceed under the leadership of the administrative branch involved (culture); we must proceed completely and correctly in accordance with the plan for cultural clubs adopted by the Ministry of Culture and Vientiane city in order to assure fulfillment of the policy and to steadily correct the weak points. We should not allow any violations in this regard.

We must inspect every type of amateur artistic group, for example, singing groups, etc. They must be improved. And bad, unstable people must be prevented from taking charge of or becoming spokesmen for artistic groups (to be really good there should only be artistic groups that are Red). If bad, unstable people are involved, the groups will be like double-edged swords, and whether they intend it or not, these activities will be used to serve the psychological ends of the enemy, either directly or indirectly.

We must regularly inspect the style of the songs, dance music, dancing, etc., that groups of artists bring to the masses. If we find anything which is inappropriate because it is double-edged or which promotes decadent, degenerates culture, we must not permit it to be presented to the masses.

We must compile a list of groups of the amateur artists that will be presenting shows for the masses in Vientiane city so that they can receive recommendations and training in order to be able to present the shows. And they must bring in for inspection the programs they wish to present. When their program has been approved, they must present just that program.

For anyone who violates or resists these regulations, we must take the necessary steps and impose a fine in accordance with the temporary regulation adopted by Vientiane city.

Therefore we recommend that every group and all the people of the capital, Vientiane, proceed in such a way that the regulations are effective.

IV. Organization:

The cultural service of Vientiane city must coordinate with the districts and involved groups (the united fronts, the LPRYU, the women's groups), and they must work together to disseminate the regulations and educate the cadres, state employees and people so they grasp this and carry it out.

The offices, organizations, ministries, services, party committees, administrative committees and all levels of the administration must cooperate in this so that it is effective. Vientiane, 26 February 1987.

[Signed] Khambou Sounisai, administrative chairman of Vientiane city.

8149/12859

CSO: 4206/106

SISAVAT KEOBOUNPHAN AT EXPORT-IMPORT CORPORATION MEETING

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 24 Mar 87 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Mr Sisavat Keobounphan Addresses the Meeting Summarizing the 1986 Results of the Partnership Corporation of Vientiane City"]

[Excerpt] On the afternoon of 21 March the export-import corporation of Vientiane city, which is a partnership between the state and private individuals, held a ceremony to summarize the results for 1986 and officially adopt a plan for 1987 at the Meuang Lao Hotel. Mr Sisavat Keobounphan, member of the Politburo of the Party Central Committee, Party Central Committee Secretariat and secretary of the party committee of Vientiane city, honored the meeting with his presence and addressed the more than 300 cadres and workers of the corporation present at the meeting.

At the meeting Mr Nokeo Philaluangkhhot reported that during the past year the corporation met 100 percent of its goal for imports and exports, and that these were in balance. In addition, it fulfilled 110.57 percent of its budget obligation.

At the end of the meeting Mr Sisavat Keobounphan gave his views and offered some advice to the meeting. First, he praised the factories and individuals who had achieved outstanding results during the past year. He also gave examples of some problems and undertakings which had improved; he summarized and evaluated the strong points, weak points and matters that had been delayed and had to be corrected in the future; this was especially true in the case of business which must proceed in keeping with the new system of economic administration, achieve real profits and carry on trade in accordance with the actual direction adopted by the party and state.

8149/12859
CSO: 4206/106

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DEFENDS NUCLEAR FREE ZONE

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 19 Jun 87 p 5

[Text]

NZPA-Reuter Singapore

New Zealand yesterday reiterated its support for the idea of a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Asia, saying superpower rivalry did nothing to help smaller nations.

"We regard our support for the South Pacific Nuclear Weapons Free Zone as an important assertion of the needs and rights of small nations which have nothing to gain

from superpower rivalry," the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr O'Flynn, told a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Singapore.

"Aspects of New Zealand's policies have not found favour with all of our friends, but they do not denote any lessening of our attachment to the Western community or its values."

Foreign Ministers of Asean, which groups Brunei, In-

donesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, met earlier this week and are now talking to their "dialogue partners" — the United States, Japan, the European Community, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Mr O'Flynn said New Zealand was a Pacific nation and "not any longer a European one transported by magic into the South Pacific."

He said New Zealand wanted to be more self-reliant and to boost co-operation with its island neighbours.

He cited the coup last month in Fiji and tension in French-controlled New Caledonia due to separatist unrest as areas of concern to New Zealand now that it had reshaped its policies "the better to reflect our Pacific identity and role."

/9274

CSO: 4200/672

SUP SUPPORTS RETURN OF LABOR GOVERNMENT

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 19 Jun 87 p 12

[Text]

The Moscow-aligned Socialist Unity Party is not putting up candidates in the election because it supports the return of the Labour Government.

Its decision, announced in a statement by its ruling

central committee, follows the line taken by the party before the 1984 snap election.

Before that election, which saw the Lange Government win power, the Marxist-Leninist SUP put up candidates in a few selected seats where it be-

lieved Labour's election chances would not be hurt.

Over the years, one of its most prominent candidates has been the Auckland trade union leader and former SUP president, Mr Bill Andersen.

Now a senior party official, Mr Andersen unsuccessfully contested Tamaki four times from 1972 to 1981, against the former Prime Minister, Sir Robert Muldoon.

In recent months, Mr Andersen, the president of the Auckland Trades Council, has embarked on a vigorous campaign in the union movement for the return of the Labour government at the election.

The SUP statement outlining its reasons for not contesting the 1987 election, published in a recent edition of the Socialist Unity newspaper, *New Zealand Tribune*, says that the National Party's "greater aggression towards workers and its opposition to a nuclear-free stance rules it out for working people."

/9274

CSO: 4200/672

EMPLOYMENT MINISTER SAYS JOBLESSNESS TO CONTINUE RISING

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 20 Jun 87 p 1

[Text]

The Minister of Employment, Mr Goff, said yesterday that the number of registered unemployed would continue to rise over the coming months.

He did not expect the forecast economic recovery to translate into permanent jobs until the end of the first quarter of next year.

While he acknowledged the trend of rising unemployment was unhelpful to a government about to enter an election campaign, he was not prepared to sacrifice the benefits of a real turnaround in the economy.

"It would have been very easy to say, let us plug several hundred thousand into make-work schemes."

The Opposition has pounced on a figure in the budget estimates showing the number of people on the unemployment benefit is

expected to rise by 23 per cent this year. Spending on the benefit is consequently forecast to jump from \$459 million to \$632 million.

The National Party employment spokesman, the Hon Bill Birch, accused the Government of hiding the figures and said they meant unemployment would now top 100,000 by next March. In April the figure was nearly 79,000.

The May figure is due next week and Mr Goff said he expected the number would be up with the beginning of the normal winter shortage of seasonal work.

The Labour Department has forecast that up to 91,000 could be registered as jobless by March but Mr Goff hoped it would not get that high.

He said the 23 per cent increase in unemployment beneficiaries was based on private economic and Government forecasts that

there would be a rise over last year's average.

In April 1986 registered unemployed was around 55,000 but reached 78,166 over the next 12 months.

The Government expects to have up to 80,000 trainees on Access courses this year.

Mr Goff said that while job training could overcome the mismatch of skills in the labour market, Access could not create jobs.

However the Government would not revert to the "nonsense" of employment schemes where full-time workers had ended up being laid off in favour of temporary staff.

/9274

CSO: 4200/672

1,000 COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS, SHADOW GOVERNMENT SURRENDER

Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jun 87 p 9

[Article by Jay Valleser]

[Text]

SURIGAO DEL SUR, Philippines — More than 1,000 communist guerrillas surrendered yesterday and exposed an elaborate underground leftist provisional government in the southern Philippines.

Government and military officials said those surrendering on Mindanao Island included a town mayor, rebel lecturers and propagandists and hundreds of armed regulars in the communist New People's Army.

It was the first time in the 18-year-long guerrilla war that communist rebels surrendered en masse and exposed a leftist shadow government that collected taxes in the villages, Surigao del Sur Governor Felicidad Pimentel told Reuters.

In surrender ceremonies in the provincial capital of Tandag, the former rebels renounced membership of the outlawed Communist Party and burned the party's hammer and sickle flag, Pimentel said.

She said the surrender followed organization of civilian vigilante groups in the province known as "People's Guardians" which had been effective in combating the communists.

It was the second batch of rebels

to surrender to the military in Surigao in a week. More than 500 surrendered over the weekend, Pimentel said.

Some 700 people have died since the peace talks between government and rebel representatives collapsed last January.

Lately, tension had heightened in many areas of the Philippines as the communists deployed "Sparrow" hit squads which claimed responsibility for 22 of the 52 killings of policemen and soldiers since the start of the year.

Police shot dead two alleged "Sparrows" whom they said tried to ambush a policeman in a Manila suburb yesterday.

Cagawit Town Mayor Ernesto Camino said he had been with the underground movement for five years and was propaganda officer when he was appointed mayor last year.

He told hundreds of people who attended the surrender ceremonies that several other mayors in the province are communists and urged them to surrender "so we will have peace in Surigao."

"I will unmask these officials if they will not come out and surrender by the end of August," Camino said.

Many of those who surrendered were barefoot farmers who complained about the hard life of a

guerrilla in the mountains.

• Muslim talks stalemated

THE long-running dispute over autonomy for the Muslim minority in the southern Philippines appears likely to stop short of war but remain stalemated for some time, government negotiators said yesterday.

Chief government negotiator Emmanuel Pelaez told Reuters the issue was likely to be left to the newly-elected Congress to decide.

Political analysts believe the question could take months if not years to be resolved by the two-chamber Congress.

Officials said neither side had set any deadline for the talks begun last year after President Corazon Aquino came to power in a civilian-backed military mutiny, ousting Ferdinand Marcos.

"Maybe no peace, no war," Pelaez told Reuters when asked about the prospects of the negotiations.

"There is no need (for the rebels) to go to war because it is already decided that they will have autonomy," he added.

Pelaez said that if the issue was not resolved before a new Congress convenes on July 27 it would pass a law granting Muslim autonomy in the southern Mindanao region.

— Reuter

BIGORNIA ON NPA COLLECTIONS DURING MAY 1987 ELECTIONS

Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 5 Jun 87 p 6

[Excerpts]

The recent legislative elections were a bonanza to the New People's Army (NPA) rebels. In Central Luzon, NPA tax collectors must have amassed more money in "revolutionary taxes" or "donations" than the entire apparatus of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) in Region III during the entire campaign period. "Taxes" and "donations" were extracted from or freely given by congressional candidates in exchange for "safe conduct passes" to campaign in rebel-infested areas.

To friends, a congressional candidate in Bataan confesses to having "contributed" ₱50,000 to the rebel cause. It was subsequently discovered that his rival, the eventual winner, had topped his "contribution" four times over. An erstwhile colleague in the defunct Batasan who ran in Pam-

panga encountered almost the same fate. Having plunked down "a substantial amount" demanded, the candidate had expected the communist rebels to remain neutral in the contest. He did not reckon, however, with "strong ties" between his rival and the NPAs in his district.

What is significant here is that an effective, if invisible, government now prevails in Central Luzon. For ability to collect taxes and maintain peace and order are among the chief attributes of a government. And all the candidates for congressman in the Central Luzon provinces of Pampanga, Bataan, Tarlac, Zambales, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija will attest to freedom of movement accorded those contributing to the rebel treasury. The sad part is that the Aquino government is unable or unwilling to squelch the "invisible government."

/9274

CSO: 4200/670

CEBU CARDINAL CONCERNED OVER GROWTH OF VIGILANTES

Quezon City WE FORUM in English 4 Jun 37 p]

[Text]

CEBU (AFP) — A Roman Catholic cardinal in this central Philippine city has expressed concern about the rise of right-wing vigilante groups in the country, saying this may usher in a new era of "warlordism."

Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, president of the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), told reporters Monday civilians had the right to defend themselves, "but how this will be done is the thing that is ques-

tionable."

Armed right-wing vigilante groups organized to fight communist rebels in insurgency-torn areas have come under fire from human rights groups for allegedly forcing residents to sign up as members and other abuses.

Asked about reports that some right-wing politicians were funding and using vigilante groups for their own ends, Cardinal Vidal said: "That is what I am afraid of, that we will revert to warlord-

ism and private armies."

He said the Roman Catholic hierarchy may come out with a pastoral letter expressing its stand on vigilante groups after the CBCP's meeting this month.

At least 85 per cent of Filipinos are Roman Catholic.

In a related development Cebu City council passed a resolution condemning armed right-wing vigilante groups here and ordered the police to go after citizens carrying unlicensed firearms.

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CSO: 4200/670

AUSTRALIAN VISITOR: QADHDHAFI AIDS NPA, MNLF

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 16 Jun 87 pp 1, 8

[Article by Bayani Cruz]

[Text]

LIBYAN leader Muamar Khaddafy is giving financial assistance to terrorists of the communist New People's Army and the Moro National Liberation Front.

This was declared at a press conference yesterday by Dr. John Whitehall, a visiting Australian anti-communist crusader, and Humberto Bellie, a Nicaraguan journalist.

Whitehall showed newsmen copies of a newsletter of anti-communist organizations which publishes activities of Khaddafy in the Philippines.

He said the Crusade had documentary evidence showing that Khaddafy was providing financial assistance to strengthen the NPA and the MNLF in their separate bids to overthrow the Aquino government by force of arms.

He said the recent spate of killings of policemen was related to the increase in financial assistance being given by Khaddafy to urban terrorists in Metro Manila.

Whitehall said Khaddafy's activities in the country were part of the Libyan program to establish a string of revolutionary movements in the Pacific region.

"Khaddafy is interested in establishing revolutionary movements not only in Asia but in the whole Pacific region," he said.

He said Libyan agents in the country had established an organization called the "Matahba" which is trying to promote the image of the NPA in Australia as a movement for "liberty and freedom," instead of as the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Whitehall said there were Australian organizations "which openly say they are giving money for educational and organizational help to certain organizations here" identified with leftist rebels.

He pointed to the May First Movement (KMU) labor alliance and the church human rights group Task Force Detainees, which have strongly denied charges of being fronts for communism.

Whitehall is a member of the World Anti-Communist League and has written a paper on alleged communist links of human rights groups here.

Whitehall said the support being given by Khaddafy includes the latest in urban terrorist weapons, as well as training in strategic urban terrorist tactics.

Meanwhile, President Aquino is sending Vice-President Salva-

dor Laurel to meet with top Malaysian officials in a bid to stop arms shipment from Sabah to Muslim rebels in Mindanao, officials said yesterday.

Laurel, who is also the foreign secretary, will visit Kuala Lumpur June 21 after attending an ASEAN post-ministerial meeting in Singapore June 15-20.

A foreign department spokesman said Laurel will meet with Malaysian Foreign Minister Datu Abu Hassan Bin Omar and Malaysian Prime Minister Muhammad Mochtar Mahathir to discuss the widespread smuggling of arms from Sabah to members of the MNLF in Mindanao.

The spokesman said an estimated P1 million worth of arms have been illegally entering the country from Sabah for the use of Muslim rebels.

The arms include high-powered assault rifles, anti-tank weapons, rocket launchers and portable anti-aircraft missiles.

Laurel said reports received by the foreign office indicated that the arms are coming from Muslim supporters of the MNLF in Mindanao and are transported to MNLF-held areas by means of pumppboats from Sabah.

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CSO: 4200/675

DEATH THREATS AGAINST CEBU ANTICOMMUNISTS 'UNCOVERED'

Cebu City SUN STAR DAILY in English 30 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The local military yesterday said it has uncovered a plot to infiltrate and kill all leaders of the anti-Communist movement in Cebu.

According to RUC 7 commander Brig. Gen. Romulo L. Querubin, the plot was contained in recently recovered subversive documents and confirmed by captured personalities of the Communist underground movement.

He said the plan also calls for the intensification of evacuations and a raid of a "weak" military installation by the Communist-led New People's Army (NPA) in Metro Cebu.

Querubin, who met with the executive committee of the People's Alliance Against Communism (PAAC) at Camp Lapulapu, disclosed that specially trained cadres were tasked for this mission.

"Communists are now in a very desperate situation. That is why they are waging

a concerted propaganda campaign to discredit the anti-Communist movement," the RUC 7 chief stressed.

To do this, the top military commander in the region said they will have to infiltrate all existing anti-Communist organizations, or even create fake groups.

'WE ARE READY'

"To cripple their enemies, the local Communists plan to eliminate all the leaders of PAAC, Cadre, the National Movement for Freedom and Democracy (NMFD), the Citizen's Anti-Communist Army (CACA), the Sagrado Corazon Senor (SCS) and other similar organizations," Querubin said.

He cautioned the leaders of the PAAC and other anti-Communist organizations to be vigilant, as they are being targeted for liquidation their sustained counter-insurgen-

cy campaign.

"The Communist movement is really hurt this time and has suffered significant setbacks at the hands of the anti-Communists and the vigilantes," the RUC 7 commander said.

To destroy the credibility of these vigilantes and the military establishment, Querubin said, a series of evacuations are being planned and "professional evacuees" along with "ready-made witnesses" will be presented in a specially called press conference.

In his meeting with the PAAC, he also said the NPA will assemble a large force to raid a "weak" military installation in Metro Cebu to show they are still strong.

"We are ready for them anytime," Querubin assured the anti-Communist leaders. He also announced he was establishing a new military detachment in Guadalupe, Cebu city. LSE III

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CSO: 4200/677

CEBU DAILIES HIT NAMFREL ON ELECTION FRAUD, VIOLENCE

Charges No Longer Dismissable

Cebu City SUN STAR DAILY in English 24 May 87 p 5

[Editorial: "Blackeye on Namfrel"]

[Text]

With the proofs submitted by opposition candidate Juan Ponce Enrile to support the charges of election fraud, one cannot dismiss them anymore as wild rantings of poor losers.

The proofs – printouts of Namfrel tallies that show excess of votes over Comelec figures – seem to speak for themselves, a matter of what they call in law as *res ipsa loquitur*. They must be so convincing even at face value that Comelec Chairman Ramon Felipe reportedly decided already to bar Namfrel from future political exercises.

President Aquino, too, can't continue prodding the opposition to accept defeat gracefully. At this time, losing, already bitter as it is without cheating, has become more difficult to swallow.

The President who had promised clean, fair, and honest elections has to remove the mammoth cloud of doubt that now hangs over the triumph of her anointed candidates.

Prompt attention from the present leadership is required to dissipate the tension that has heightened since

the Namfrel tally started.

An investigation of the opposition charges by an independent body may help retain the sobriety and order that have so far characterized the protests over the alleged election anomalies.

Blunting the opposition charges by saying the Namfrel tally was unofficial and, as far as the Comelec is concerned, does not exist, is like disowning an adopted child who has turned out to have grown horns on its head. Despite its disavowals now, Comelec had embraced Namfrel as its citizen arm and given it the authority to be the watchdog of the elections.

Moreover, despite the supposed "unofficial" nature of Namfrel's role in the conduct of the polls, most people had relied on it as the only source of quick count figures – a sensitive task that can be abused to condition minds on victory and defeat.

Namfrel has just received a big blackeye from the opposition charges. An investigation is in order to determine if Comelec's citizen's agency deserves it.

'Acceptable' Definition Urged

Cebu City SUN STAR DAILY in English 14 May 87 p 5

[Editorial: "How Much Fraud Is Tolerable?"]

[Text] A Namfrel official had assessed whatever cheating there was in the fifth district as "tolerable" and called the election there as "violence-free," virtually giving the Duranos a clean bill of health in their participation in the last political exercise.

One will wonder how much fraud is tolerable and how much threat and intimidation is needed to call an election violent.

From the pronouncement of the Namfrel official, whose assessment appeared on page 1 of this paper yesterday, fraud and violence can be accepted if it does not distort the results of the election.

One's translation for that can be that the cheating and harassment can be acceptable if the candidate who employs those devices will still win even without them, but with a smaller margin over his rivals.

The Namfrel official's view may be faulted for being defeatist, for accepting situations which seemingly cannot be changed over night.

At the same time, it is a pragmatist view, embracing the reality that the Filipino culture still includes a benevolent attitude towards vote-buying and even the use of intimidation during elections.

We believe there should be a definition of fraud and violence in judging the conduct of elections. Otherwise, losers can cry foul using the rampant violations of the election code--which all candidates or their followers commit--as their moral and legal reasons.

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CSO: 4200/677

PANGASINAN NPA BURN 6 HOUSES

Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 26 May 87 p 12

[Text]

TAYUG, Pangasinan (PNA)— Communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas burned six houses in barangay Bantog, San Quintin town Thursday night in retaliation to the refusal of the residents there to pay "taxes" to the rebels.

Capt. Mariano Busa, commanding officer of the 151st PC Company here, estimated the property loss at more than P70,000. No one was reported hurt

as the occupants had fled before the arrival of the rebels.

The house owners were identified as Modesto C. Malate, Tito Mina, Jesus Mina, Felicidad Mundo, Penny Mundo and Manolito Dulay.

It was reported that while the houses were burning, the rebels indiscriminately fired their guns in the air.

At least 26 empty shells and one live ammunition of M-16 ar-

malite rifle were recovered from the scene.

Barangay Bantog is a border barangay of San Quintin and Natividad. It is about two and a half kilometers from Namalandayan, Lupao Nueva Ecija where soldiers and a big band of NPA rebels clashed early this year.

The rebels who committed the atrocity allegedly escaped northward to the Natividad mountains. — (PNA)

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CSO: 4200/677

CLERGY, REBEL TIES COMPLICATES MANILA, VATICAN RELATIONS

Davao City THE MINDANAO MIRROR-BULLETIN in English 18-24 May 87 p 4

[Text]

MANILA (Interco Press) — Diplomatic complications in RP. Vatican relations may result from the reported discovery of ties between Catholic priests and nuns and communist rebels, it was learned from normally reliable official sources.

These sources, who spoke on guarantee of anonymity, disclosed that responsible Philippine diplomats have put forward the view that, should measures to curb or sever such ties fail at the local church level, the Philippine government would have to take up the matter with the Vatican.

The same sources declined to indicate if soundings already have been made at the Vatican's diplomatic mission in Manila.

A senior ambassador, speaking without attribution, stated that the involvement of members of the Catholic clergy in the communist insurgency is an "extremely serious and delicate matter" in which the Vatican should take a hand.

Competent administration sources said that they were satisfied Cardinal Sin has taken "earnest measures" to put a definite stop to such involvement. They expressed amazement

however, that the steps taken by Cardinal Sin have thus far proved unavailing.

In response to repeated warnings by the military, over a period of years, that the church was infiltrated by communists, and that priests and nuns were involved in the communist movement, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines routinely asserted that if there were any members of the clergy in the ranks of the communist rebels, they were not communists, but people driven to violence and desperation by the abuses and injustices perpetrated by the Marcos regime.

The bishops recently acknowledged knowing about the involvement of priests and nuns with the communists since the mid-1970s. They have promulgated a pastoral letter warning such members of the clergy to sever their ties with the communists or leave their positions in the church.

Undenied press reports have it that at least 15 priests are known to have joined the communist insurgents. The military and some sources in the church hierarchy have told the press that many of the Catholic 4,000 priests and 15,000 nuns

may be giving covert support to the communists underground.

Last January, the Rev. Rustico Tan, who represented rebels in regional peace talks in Cebu, claimed about 20 priests in the area were "active in the underground."

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Teodoro Bacani, a former member of the Constitutional Commission, told newsmen that the church must undertake a "cleaning of ranks". He added that the rebel clerics were undermining the credibility of the church.

Church authorities reportedly are looking into reports that church funds have gone into helping finance the 18-year rebellion.

Cardinal Sin said, "This support of rebels by some priests was caused and occasioned by the Marcos regime, when we had to join efforts to topple the dictator. That is why many of the bishops kept quiet, because there was no other alternative."

Philippine diplomats competent for Philippine-Vatican affairs pointed out that the departure of Marcos and the changes in government have removed all excuses for toleration of priests' involvement in subversion and rebellion.

CONTRADICTIONS REPORTED IN ALSA MASA KILLING OF SURRENDEREE

Dayao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 27 May 87 pp 1, 9

[Text]

DAVAO CITY (MMNS) — Rogelio Quiñola, 24 years old, single and a construction worker was mauled, stabbed and shot to death by a group of Alsa Masa members at the Panacan Relocation area, this city, yesterday afternoon.

Rogelio Quiñola who was working in one of the construction firms in Manila came home two months ago supposedly to surrender to the military, for being suspected as NPA sympathizer through the advice of his mother, Clarita Quiñola.

Shortly after Rogelio's arrival from Manila he was accompanied by the Barangay Captain of Masa to Lt. Col. Franco Calida at the Metropolitan District Command (METRODISCOM) to formalize his (Quiñola's) surrender. Then, Lt. Col. Calida issued him a certificate indicating that Rogelio Quiñola had already formally surrendered to the military authorities according to Mrs. Quiñolas account.

Unfortunately, Rogelio Quiñola was arrested by Alsa Masa members at Km. 13 (Sasa, Panacan) yesterday at around 3 o'clock in the afternoon. He was brought to the Panacan Relocation area and was tortured to death. "Ang akong anak gi-dunggab sa mga Alsa sa botelya nga buak, gibuhalan na sa da-

kong bato ang iyang ulo ug pagkatapos na siyang gipusil (the Alsa stabbed my son with broken bottle, they smashed his head with large stone, and after which they shot him dead)", Mrs. Quiñola said.

When asked whether Rogelio was an NPA, Mrs. Quiñola answered no. "Usahay gipalhog lang siya sa mga NPA sa ginagmay nga gimbuhaon. Mao nga gipangita siya sa mga sundalo (sometimes he was only requested to do some errands by the NPAs. So the military was looking for him)," she said.

Mrs. Clarita Quiñola also told the MMNS that the same group of Alsa Masa, who are mostly addicts and alcoholics, shot her daughter Lolita and a certain Vilma Bucó in Panacan Relocation area, sometime in May last year. Bucó died on the spot.

Meanwhile, in a telephone interview, Lt. Col. Franco Calida told MMNS that he has already instructed the commanding officer of the Sasa Police Station to investigate the killing of Rogelio Quiñola by Alsa Masa members. Lt. Col. Calida also revealed that Rogelio was an NPA organizer and later became a Sparrow prior to his surrender to the Metrodiscom last month. — (Media Mindanao News Service)

DIPLOMATS VIEW MANILA REACTION TO USSR PENETRATION EFFORTS

Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 27 May 87 p 8

[Article: "Soviet Pin Pricks"]

[Text]

MANILA (Interco Press) — Members of the diplomatic community are wondering how the Philippine government "is taking or going to take" Soviet pin pricks.

They are kept by propriety and protocol from talking about the matter openly, but it is common talk in the cocktail circuit and diplomatic gatherings.

They refer, in particular, to the entry into the country of two "undocumented" Soviet nationals, the attempt of a Soviet vessel to enter Subic Bay flying the Maltese flag, and the reported increase in Soviet "diplomatic personnel" in the Philippines without prior Philippine consent.

A Western diplomat commented that the "mv Kunikov" incident was a "flagrant violation" of international law, while a Filipino diplomat called it "a slap on Philippine authority."

ASEAN diplomats expressed the view that, by a series of pin pricks, the Soviet government is "testing the nerve" of the Philippine government. According to these diplomats, the USSR is trying to send a message to the Philippines that it "intends to get what it wants." And they are aware of the unresolved diplomatic problems between the Philippines and the USSR.

Among the pending issues are

those arising from the age-old request of Moscow for "bunkering rights" in the Philippines, the plan of the Soviet government to establish consulates in Cebu and Mindanao, and Russian offers of economic and technical aid in consideration of some "quid pro quo."

Part of the "quid pro quo" is the grant of "bunkering rights" to the Russians, which, as it quite well known, is staunchly opposed by the military, especially the intelligence community.

It was learned that Commission on Immigration and Deportation authorities are quite miffed over the entry into the Philippines of two "undocumented" Soviet nationals. It was also learned that the commission is updating its record of Soviet nationals who are in the country with a view to ensuring strict compliance with immigration laws and rules.

Two subjects of Philippine-Soviet talks, which reportedly are on front burners, is a Soviet proposal to import Filipino manpower into Siberia, and a move by Moscow to enter into a fishing agreement with Manila.

Earlier reports indicated that the USSR plans initially to employ 1,500 Filipino workers in Siberia, and that the USSR

wants an early conclusion of a fishing agreement.

Some Filipino diplomats, who favor both these two proposals, are urging action by the President before the Philippine Congress meets in session to forestall protracted debate on their varied implications.

Foreign diplomatic observers expressed "amazement" at the fact that the Philippine government is not known to have lodged any diplomatic protest against the "Kunikov" incident and other Soviet infringements on Philippine laws and sovereignty.

A European diplomat stated that "matters such as this cannot be treated as state secrets under international law and diplomatic practice."

An ASEAN source said that the Soviet treatment of the Philippines is typical of the superpower's attitude toward ASEAN countries.

It is significant that the diplomatic corps is watching how the Philippine governments react to repeated Soviet "affronts." In the view of most foreign diplomats, small nations should assert their sovereignty and dignity even in the face of big powers.

NEGROS CIVIL-MILITARY COUNCIL CONTINUES AMNESTY EFFORTS

Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 27 May 87 p 12

[Text]

Bacolod City — Negros Occidental officials, both civilian and military, have reiterated their call for Filipinos in the hills to "come down and rejoin society" in the spirit of reconciliation and brotherhood.

Through the Provincial Reconciliation and Development Council (PRDC), the local officials have virtually laid the door open for rebel returnees wishing to pursue a peaceful, productive and non-violent existence under the country's democratic framework.

Josefina Labatorio, PRDC chairman for Negros Occidental said 729 former rebels all over the province had been served by the council in the form of self-employment assistance, food aid and shelter costing some P51,300.

The provincial government, through the initiative of acting Gov. Daniel Lacson, Jr., appropriated P100,000 for the priority needs of the returnees, Labatorio said.

Also actively involved in the rehabilitation of the rebel returnees are military authorities headed by Col. Miguel Coronel, provincial commander

who is also co-chairman of PRDC.

Labatorio said more surrenderers have been reported in Northern Negros, especially San Carlos City where 11 are being served by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Feelers. In Isabela town, local officials reported that 14 former rebels had sent feelers to return to the fold of the law, Labatorio said.

On the wake of a growing desire among rebel sympathizers to come down from the hills and live normal lives, the PRDC has pinpointed some idle lands in the interior communities for possible resettlement purposes.

One of these, she said, is the 60-hectare resettlement area at sitio Pangyasan, Bantayan, Kabankalan, where each returnee-family could be allocated 5,800 square meters for homelot and farming purposes.

The bulk of the former rebels already served by the PRDC through DSWD were in the towns of Cauayan, Candani, Hinobaan, La Castellana, Manapla, Kabankalan and Victorias.

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CSO: 4200/677

DAVAO DEL NORTE AMNESTY PROGRAM UPDATED

Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 29 May 87 p 6

[Text]

TAGUM, Davao del Norte — Some 16 former New People's Army members here were married in church rites while eight children were baptized as 60 returnees received amnesty certificates at the Gumbalay sa Pakig-ull rehabilitation center here.

Virgie Allones, manager of the Gumbalay sa Pakig-ull rehabilitation center, said Batch 17 was the largest group ever to graduate since the Gumbalay began its reconciliation drive 11 months ago.

Lately, a dramatic rise in the number of returnees were recorded. At one point last month, Allones said, returnees on process reached 110, leading to slight congestion problems for a center designed to handle only 50 returnees at a time.

Since the Gumbalay begun 11 months ago, the center has processed 389 returnees. The rehabilitation for rebel returnees

was located less than a kilometer from the provincial capitol, it is housed in a building that formerly housed the Ministry of Human Settlements.

The Gumbalay is run by the Kauswagan sa Timog Mindanaw Foundation. The government paid tribute to its achievements last January when the Gumbalay rehabilitation strategy became part of the multi-billion National Reconciliation and Development Program (NRDP).

Meanwhile, the Regional Unified Command (RUC/RECOM XI) has placed its troops in the Region XI, particularly Davao City, under red alert in preparation for any possible attack that the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) will launch.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Reciña, RUC/RECOM XI commanding general, said he placed in "full red alert" all contingents of the NA

FP in Region XI following reports that the MNLF is reportedly planning to resume their terroristic activities in the region.

Reciña disclosed that the military is keeping a close watch on the continuing arms build up in Sulu following the landing last month of about 2,405 light and heavy weapons and the training of 1,000 new MNLF recruits.

According to the RUC/RECOM XI commanding general, the report on the moro rebels have acquired sophisticated anti-aircraft weapons from Libya and wanted to make Davao as a "battleground".

He added that the MNLF group in Davao City headed by Nur Khan has been reported missing causing more suspicion that the MNLF is now preparing for possible attack.

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CSO: 4200/677

BISHOPS, BUSINESSMENS CONFERENCE URGES URBAN LAND REFORM

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 11 Jun 87 pp 1, 6

[Article by Lulu Principe]

[Text]

CHURCH leaders and well-known industrialists urged the government to immediately implement the urban land reform program to provide poor and landless families with land.

The Bishops-Businessmen Conference (BBC) said it had drafted an executive order for the implementation of the urban land reform to benefit at least five million poor settlers in urban areas in the 12 regions of the country.

Ma. Teresa Nieva, executive director of the BBC, said the organization saw the need to provide poor urban settlers with lands because their existence could no longer be denied.

Nieva said the objective of the urban land reform program was similar to the proposed comprehensive agrarian reform program, which is now the focus of controversy among various segments of the society, including the elite and the peasant farmers.

If approved by the President, the Order would speed up transfer of ownership of tenanted farmlands from landowners to tenant-farmers.

But, Nieva admitted that the budget for the proposed urban land reform program would be much bigger because the lands to be transferred to settlers are within urban areas.

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CSO: 4200/675

AGRIBUSINESS CONCERNS OVER LAND REFORM EXPRESSED

Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 2 Jun 87 p 5

[Text]

Agribusiness operators forecast yesterday the death of their enterprises once the government's comprehensive agrarian reform program is fully implemented in the next five years.

Most of these agribusiness entrepreneurs are into aquaculture such as prawns and shrimps and into high-value export crops such as coffee, rubber, sugar, bananas, pineapples, ramie, palm oil and the like.

The big multinational firms such as Dole, Sime Darby, and Del Monte are merely leasing vast tracts of land from the government and private parties and are, therefore, not worried about losing any agricultural land.

The big land losers will be Filipino

pioneers, big or small, in agribusiness enterprises requiring high technology investments that run into millions and which employ thousands of workers.

One of them is Mariano C. Pamintuan who, as a young agriculture graduate from UP Los Baños in 1933, went to Davao to venture into large-scale plantation projects that now grow rubber, ramie, and others.

By dint of hard work and the use of technology,

Pamintuan has transformed hitherto uncultivated forest lands into modern plantations that help earn precious foreign exchange for the country.

Pamintuan said he doubted whether the beneficiaries who will take over large plantations can produce efficiently

even if they form themselves into groups to run the big farms that will be parcelled out.

Other agribusiness operators proposed that the government pay them in full for their capital-intensive farms so that they can invest in industrial enterprises immediately instead of

just getting 10 percent in cash and the balance in Land Bank bonds payable in 10 years.

"How can we become industrialists overnight with a meager government downpayment?", they asked.

Since the government estimates that only P7 billion might be available initially of the P45 billion funding for 1987-1992, the landowners suggested that the government purchase only that much worth of agricultural land and pay for such land in full.

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CSO: 4200/670

DAVAO PAPER URGES DISCUSSION OF LAND REFORM DRAFT

Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 29 May 87 p 2

[Editorial: "Land Reform"]

[Text]

The burning issue of the day is not the unfinished congressional elections. It's not even the reported disunity in the military and the threat of another coup. It is the comprehensive land reform code which President Aquino is being pressured to sign or not to sign.

We do not pretend to be knowledgeable about the proposal but we do agree, based on the outline we've read that the code has far-ranging implications. In fact, if not handled properly, it could ignite more passions from both the peasants or the landlords, depending upon the sector which will feel more aggrieved by the decision of the Cory Aquino government.

The program must be extensively discussed by the people concerned through well-publicized public hearings all over the country.

True, the government conducted a public hearing on the proposal in Davao City last May 2, at a time when almost everybody was busy with the congressional elections. Considering the gravity of the land reform program, such a hearing was almost secret. It was as if the administration did not want to submit a major program to a democratic discussion.

For an administration which prides itself to be responsible for restoring democracy to this country, it is a sad commentary.

/9274

CSO: 4200/677

DAVAO COMMANDER IMPLEMENTS AFP REFORM PROGRAM

Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 29 May 87 p 3

[Text]

The moral and spiritual renewal of soldiers were among the vital areas underscored by Brig. Gen. Romeo M. Reciña, RECOM II Regional Commander in his directive this week to all provincial commanders and the Metrodiscom commanding officer for them to continuously implement the various aspects of the AFP's formation program.

Gen. Reciña enjoined them to focus the program's implementation on three areas — moral and spiritual renewal; integrated socio-cultural activities; and value orientation, information and education or "Voice" activities.

The program, the general said, is aimed toward enhancing the individual growth and development of every soldier. "Where the soldier is aware of our traditional values, tries to lead the Christian way of life, is aware of our social and cultural way of life and continuously searches for more knowledge, he makes an ideal soldier who justifies his exist-

ence in the AFP," he said.

In his directive, Gen. Reciña told commanders to pursue the moral and spiritual renewal of their officers and men through seminars and workshops through the christian module, bible studies, prayer meetings, spiritual and moral guidance and counseling. With regard to socio-cultural integrated activities, he emphasized the role of unit historical enhancement activities, propagation of the national language, arts promotion and appreciation, among others.

With regard to value orientation, he said this should be pursued through continuing information and education activities and the discussions on current issues, particularly on matters of human rights.

In a separate development, the RECOM II Infocenter said a two-day seminar on civil-military operations opens Friday at Camp Catitipan with PC/INP officers and men as participants.

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CSO: 4200/677

DAVAO ARCHBISHOP, JESUITS CONDEMN ALSA MASA METHODS

Davao MINDANAO TIMES in English 28 May-4 Jun 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

DAVAO CITY — Archbishop Antonio Li, Mabutas, joined a university group in a statement yesterday condemning as "unjust and therefore totally objectionable" the use of coercion by vigilante groups.

Calling themselves the Ignatian Spirituality Action Group, Mabutas and 33 others including Jesuit priests said the Alsa Masa was pressuring people into joining vigilante activities on pain of being branded as communist.

Instances were also found when vigilantes were allowed to operate outside their assigned areas, resulting to untraceable abuses. The group called for steps to ensure that membership in vigilante groups be limited to residents of each community and that they be screened by responsible persons.

While hailing the positive effects of the Alsa Masa in many parts of the city, the

group emphasized that vigilantes draw their strength and value from volunteerism. "The use of coercion to promote the movement is unjust and therefore totally objectionable," it said.

In justifiable situations, the Ignatian group found it necessary for vigilantes — at least, those carefully trained and properly motivated — to bear arms.

"The positive effects of this new movement in many parts of the city make it clear that "people power" has once again proven itself an effective means for preserving and protecting our basic human rights against any force that dares violate them," it said.

The Ignatian group however added that "in no way can any group be duly authorized to act judge and executioner against anyone simply because he or she is suspected of having done wrong or has actually done wrong."

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CSO: 4200/677

PROVINCIAL WEEKLY REPORTS NPA ACTIVITIES, LOSSES

'Kangaroo Courts' Reported

Dipolog City THE MINDANAO OBSERVER in English 20 Apr 87 pp 1, 5

[Text]

Ozamiz City — A top NPA leader, AKA "Mamay" exposes the proliferation of "Deep Penetration Agents" (DPA) within their rank and file during a brief interview conducted just recently at Cotta, Ozamiz City.

It was disclosed that DPAs are government agents from among the finest men of the MAFP with a mission to monitor their (NPA) movements and activities as well as to create divisiveness and suspicion from among themselves which resulted to rampant killings with one another, justified

by the discovery of Communist's killing fields in almost all parts of the country.

Said NPA leader also told that sometime last year (1985), there are 20 suspected DPAs in Ozamiz and Zamboanga del Norte who were tried by their (NPA) Kangaroo Courts. Out of these, 3 had escaped, 5 were acquitted and placed under probation and the remaining 12 were convicted, shot to death and buried by their (NPA) own men.

Kangaroo Courts in the re-

gion are composed of 6 members namely; AKA Mayo, AKA Aning, AKA Sarsi, AKA Monet, AKA Sendong and AKA Flavio, whose full names are still withheld for various reasons.

Meanwhile, it was further revealed that 3 of the suspected DPAs reported killed are residents of Dipolog City, namely; Wally Gonzales, Morris Barrios and a certain Boy (FNU), allegedly a brother-in-law of a (PAL) Philippine Air Lines employee, this city. (Press Release by 91CMOST, CMOB, Dipolog)

Western Mindanao 'Legal' Head Arrested

Dipolog City THE MINDANAO OBSERVER in English 27 Apr 87 pp 1, 5

[Text]

Sicayab, Dipolog City — A combined military effort to inflict psychological blow to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) establishment resulted to the apprehension of Evangeline Obnima y Villa, alias SARAH/

LAGA, alleged legal machinery head of Western Mindanao Revolutionary Party Committee (WMRPC) while attending Partido ng Bayan rally at Dipolog City proper at 9 P.M. April 22, 1987.

Information gathered also stated that Obnimaga was also designated as over-all coordinator for "Partido ng Bayan" (PnB) rallies and other activities throughout WMRPC areas.

As of this report, subject

is still under questioning and interrogation for vital information of the communist movement for further use of the government in its campaign to combat insurgency in the country.

It was also disclosed in the report that AKA LAGA is a resident of Roxas, Zamboanga del Norte and was carrying subversive documents and cash money amounting to P3,538.85 allegedly for funding PnB activities during the apprehension/capture.

In another development, "Task Force Malindang", under the command of Colonel Cesar F. Fortuno, PA, caused the apprehension of 2 NPA/CTI namely; AKA RAUL AND AKA JOE under Commander Ronie and Joker respectively. Both are operating at Barangays Canao-Canao, Marangay, Bagong Diwa and Dimalinao, all of Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental present under the custody of Bonifacio INP station, Misamis Occidental. (Press Release by 91CMOST, CMOB, Dipolog)

Ex-rebels Help Military

Dipolog City THE MINDANAO OBSERVER in English 27 Apr 87 pp 1, 6

[Text]

Sicayab, Dipolog City — Five former CPP/NPA hardcore members who confirmed the continuous misdeeds and false indoctrination they experienced while with the (NPA) organization rendered personal assistance in the ongoing military operations conducted by government troops in the hinterlands of Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Oroquieta and Misamis Occidental.

Said former rebels are presently with government troops in the frontlines to locate the NPA concentration and personalities already made known to military authorities under Colonel Cesar Fortuno, PA, the new 1/1 Brigade Commander and concurrent head of "Task Force Malindang" composing of more or less seven (7) Infantry Battalions.

Available records showed the identities of said former NPAs, namely; Orlando Guimalan y Tagab, popularly known as the dreaded Commander Manay, alleged number two man of WMRPC, CPP/NPA; Bernardo Agum known as Commander Jonas; Rosa Agum known as Aka Lalay, wife of Jonas; Segundo Guarin y Algabre, former CPP/NPA Logistic Officer, Aka Commander Boyet and Jaime Paranguay, Aka Commander Ever, CPP/NPA Medical/Propaganda unit.

In related instance, three (3) amazons, namely; Gregoria L. Tuyac aka Mayet Digna Recamara aka Maris and Lucila Agcang aka Almie, all members of Semi-legal team of the New People's Army having been captured just recently by 51st Infantry Battalion elements led by 2Lt Alberto signified intentions to

help the military authorities in its campaign against the CPP/NPA's in the region.

Meanwhile military sweeping operations have started a month ago and still in hot pursuit of the CPP/NPA after the NDP's disregard of the reconciliatory calls and offers of amnesty and privileges from no less than the President of the Philippines, Her Excellency Corazon C. Aquino.

As of presstime, reliable information coming from the hinterlands revealed that the insurgents are now starving, restless and scared resulting to weakening of morale among their (NPA) rank and files because of non-support of the masses.

Relatedly, barangay residents of infested NPA areas are now joining CMO organization, an organization composed of former NPA supporters, turned government partners in its mission to combat, eradicate or to totally stop the communist threat against the duly constituted national government.

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CSO: 4200/677

INFLATIONARY SURGE SEEN WITH OIL PRICE HIKES

Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 5 Jun 87 p 24

[Text]

Inflation rates have been predicted to rise sharply in the next few months due to increasing prices of consumer products.

Local economists basically based their prediction the chain effect that might occur of the price of petroleum products would be increased. Some businessmen

base their computation for an increase in the price of certain commodities on the price increase on petroleum products, particularly gasoline.

It was said that the country is now heading for a continued price spiral, considering that inflation rate in May was recorded at 2.51 percent, a

sharp contrast to the levels recorded during the past three months of this year.

During the first quarter this year, the country still experienced a deflation of 0.59 percent. It was only in April when inflation started to perk up.

While some economists expressed

the belief that inflation rate is higher during May, as shown last year when inflation rate for the month was recorded at 1.29 percent, the 2.51 percent inflation rate for May this year could still be minimal considering the spendings during congressional and senatorial elections May 11.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) has recorded a rise in the costs of consumer goods and services during the first month of this year. But because of last year's continued deceleration in prices of consumer goods and services, deflation was recorded instead.

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CSO: 4200/670

BATAAN NDF OFFICIAL ON PARAMILITARY COERCION OF CIVILIANS

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 9 Jun 87 pp 1, 6

[Article by Marvyn Benaning]

[Text]

LAMAO, Bataan — The military in Bataan has been coercing civilians into joining an Alsa Masa-type armed group formed ostensibly to oust the New People's Army in the peninsula.

In an exclusive interview with Ka Noel, a leading member of the underground *Pambansang Kaisahan ng mga Magbubukid* and the *Rebolusyonaryong Kilusan ng mga Mangingisda*, two organizations under the fold of the National Democratic Front, *The Manila Times* also learned that the three battalion-strong military in this province would be beefed up with intelligence operatives and instructors in "grassroots terrorism."

Ka Noel, 42, who spoke to the *Times* on condition that no photos would be taken, claimed that "units of this fascist organization have been established under the direction of the provincial constabulary com-

mand and supervision of Brig. Gen. Eugenio Ocampo, regional PC chief in Central Luzon."

He said the NPA and the NDF had "already determined who have been recruited by the military and many of them happened to have cases against the revolutionary movement and the masses of Bataan."

While toying with his .38 caliber revolver, Ka Noel explained: "Many peasants are being asked by the military to join this paramilitary unit and many have been forced to join under pain of arrest and harassment."

A former seminarian who joined the revolutionary underground after several years in the labor movement, Ka Noel said while some traders and big compradors with business interests in the province might have the resources to sponsor an Alsa Masa-type organization in the peninsula, "it is only the mili-

tary which has the experience and the utter need to create such a monster."

Ka Noel also expressed alarm over the sudden increase of psy-war operatives in Bataan and added that "the composite intelligence group being poured into the province, the change of Task Force Samat's appellation to Task Force Pagsubok and the formation of paramilitary units apart from the Civilian Home Defense Force, all these point to a change in tactics by the military."

Elaborating on the issue, Ka Noel said the military was "preparing the groundwork for the fuller implementation of the low intensity conflict in the province and the massacres and selective assassinations being committed in some instances had all the makings of the LIC-Instigated executions similar to those that happened in El Salvador."

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CSO: 4200/675

IMPACT OF URBAN POOR CONTINUES TO PRESS AQUINO

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 10 Jun 87 p 5

[Article by Beng Allanigue: "Little Hope for Urban Poor"]

[Text]

WHEN one speaks of the urban poor, one imagines makeshift shanties built on land the builders don't own. Lacking in water, toilet and other facilities, filth and garbage abound, resulting in widespread pollution and countless diseases like tuberculosis, amoebiasis and diarrhea. To the city-bred middle-class and to the rich, urban poor communities are eyesores.

The country has a total of 7.2 million urban poor people scattered all over the country, 2.2 million of whom are concentrated in Metro Manila.

Mass migration from the countryside to the cities began in the 30's and 40's, but the biggest waves came in the mid-60's when squatter communities in urban areas grew to huge proportions. These communities are still growing, evidence of continuingly high urban migration rates.

Urban poor communities proliferate, however, because of extreme rural poverty caused by agri-business invasion of the countryside, the shift of production from food crops to cash crops, the small subsistence farmer's indebtedness due to low crop prices, pressures to sell their land, or outright landgrabbing by the powerful.

Countryside militarization, like rural poverty, is another "push factor" in urban migration. The government's counter-insurgency campaign, resulting in the deterior-

ation of the peace and order situation in the countryside, forces rural people to migrate to the cities, whose "modernization," on the other hand, is a "pull factor" for urban migration.

Industrialization in the cities has also developed a need for a labor source. The demand for manpower thus aggravates the growth of an army of workers and semi-proletarians. Even tourism has added to the "pull" factor of urban migration in its demand for taxi-drivers, bar girls, massage parlor attendants, and plain prostitutes.

This influx of rural people to the cities has brought about big problems to both migrants and city administrations.

The most immediate is employment. According to the National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO) the country has a total labor force of 21.819 million and 12.8 percent of the total labor force (about 2.791 million individuals) are jobless. NCSO also says that 1.87 million families in the urban areas live below the poverty threshold monthly income of P3,005.00 (US\$150).

With the unemployment and poverty problem come health and nutrition problems, and the lack if not the absence of basic social services like water, drainage systems, and electricity. Concomitant with these are the inadequate education opportunities for children, the exploitation of

workers, women and children, and even irresponsible parenthood.

During the Marcos administration, government approaches to the squatter problem ranged from simple toleration to foreign-financed, highly-budgeted "slum upgrading programs."

A case in point was the Tondo Foreshore Project which benefited only a few because "illegal entries" (residents entering the area after 1974) were not allowed to benefit from it. Even the popularly known BLISS projects benefited only, at the most, lower middle-income groups which could afford to pay the monthly amortizations.

What was perhaps the most deceptive and inhuman approach was the day-to-day eviction of squatters on private lots. Capitalizing on the government's anti-squatter campaign, many private land owners forcibly ejected squatters with the help of police and the military.

Under the new dispensation, nothing seems to have changed much. Mrs. Aquino promised in her 1986 presidential campaign that if installed, her government "would give priority to the country's poor." The urban poor still await the fulfillment of that promise.

The urban poor were momentarily appeased with the creation of the Presidential Committee for the Urban Poor through Executive

Order No. 82, but there was no provision in the order for the representation of urban poor organizations to ensure their participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of government programs affecting them.

The president also issued executive order 84 directing the National Housing Authority (NHA) to suspend the collection of amortization arrears and delinquency interests and declare a moratorium on eviction in government housing projects.

But the beneficiaries found that to avail themselves of the moratorium, the order provided that they must enter into legal contracts with NHA and in the event that their accounts fall into arrears for three months, the total accounts due as of December 31, 1986 would be demandable. Failure to pay said accounts plus monthly obligations would mean foreclosure of their rights.

As a result, urban poor organizations which flourished under the Marcos regime, continue to press for long-sought demands. Already it has forwarded to President Aquino an agenda for "a genuine and comprehensive urban land reform program."

However, considering President Aquino's apparent lack of interest in the urban poor's plight, the urban poor are not optimistic

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CSO: 4200/675

'PEASANT ORGANIZER' ALLEGES MILITARY LINKED TO GAMBLING

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 12 Jun 87 p 6

[Text]

LAMAO, Bataan — The military is profiting from the operations of gambling and crime syndicates in Bataan.

Thus declared Ka Noel, a peasant organizer acknowledged as a leading element of the National Democratic Front in Bataan.

In an exclusive interview, the 10-year veteran cadre claimed that "*jueteng* operations in the province have the blessings of the provincial constabulary command which in turn is sanctioned by the Regional Command in Central Luzon headed by Brig. Gen. Eugenio Ocampo."

Ka Noel stressed that PC operatives also allowed pilferers of refined oil from the Bataan Refining Co. to go scot-free after getting their shares of the loot.

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CSO: 4200/765

SENIOR OFFICERS COMPLAIN CONSTITUTION SHIELDS REBELS

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 12 Jun 87 pp 1,6

[Text]

SENIOR army officers complained yesterday to President Aquino about their difficulty in dealing with communist front organizations hiding under the cloak of the Constitution in trying to overthrow the government. In a meeting with the Presi-

dent at Malacanang, the military officers said they had no doubt that certain human rights groups and so-called nationalist organizations were communist fronts.

They said they could not pin down these groups because of the "due process" clause in the Constitution. Hard evidence to prove the covert activities of these pro-communist organizations, they added, were too difficult to gather.

According to Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno, President Aquino explained to the army officers that "because we have democracy we should not be too impatient in realizing that there are matters which we just cannot take care of."

In her Independence Day message, Mrs. Aquino amplified her point. She said "it would not only be by force of arms that we can succeed to defend our freedom but also in our ability to resist the temptation of any system that promises quick results at the expense of human rights and individual liberty."

Despite the "negative points" raised by the military field commanders, the presidential spokesman described the meeting as "very friendly."

The discussion, he said, dealt mostly on the insurgency pro-

blem because of the recent rash of killings of policemen in Metro Manila.

Four brigadier generals and 17 army colonels attended yesterday's meeting at Malacanang. Benigno said it was part of the President's regular dialogues with members of the armed forces.

Asked if the military officers were satisfied with the position of the President on the insurgency problem, the press secretary said "I think they did accept her explanation on the political situation."

During the meeting, Benigno said the President reiterated her three-pronged approach in solving the insurgency problem: political reforms, social reforms, and the alleviation of poverty in the countryside. She stressed that military solution alone would not solve insurgency.

The President also announced before the military officers her plan to give "spot promotions" to deserving military men every time she visits military camps in various parts of the country.

According to Benigno, the army officers described the plan as "revolutionary." But they welcomed the idea, he added.

At present, promotions in the military are given by the President through the recommendation of Gen. Fidel Ramos.

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CSO: 4200/675

QUESTIONS, CONTRARY VIEWS REPORTED ON MURDER OF REBEL PRIEST

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 13 Jun 87 p 7

[Article: "Who Killed Fr Salac, Priests Ask"]

[Text]

REBEL priest Father Roberto Salac, who was believed to have been shot to death by government troops last May 20, had told people he wanted to leave the communist-led New People's Army (NPA).

He might have been killed by the rebels.

"He felt, because of the pressure put on him, it was impossible to get out (of the NPA) although he wanted to," Sister Felisa Salac, the priest's older sister and a member of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception told UCAN last June 8.

Sr. Felisa, who works in Manila, declined to comment on reports that the NPA killed her brother.

A Maryknoll priest told UCAN last June 8 some priests in Tagum where Father Salac, 34, served as a parish priest, thought he may have been killed by the NPA and not the military.

Original reports from Davao City said the priest was killed by government troops at a rebel camp in the mountains near Mawab Town, Davao del Norte, 1,000 kms. southeast of Manila.

A Tagum priest said Father Salac told him and other priests he wanted to leave the NPA and that "things were hot for him and it was time to lie low." The priest says Father Salac differed with

his NPA comrades on points of ideology.

Maryknoll Father Robert Depinet, parish priest of Mawab, went to the military and was told there had been no military encounter May 20. One of his parish workers told him, however, five or six heavily armed uniformed men were in the area before the shooting began. Both government troops and the NPA wore similar uniforms.

There are reports Father Salac was carrying a large amount of money when he was shot.

Bishop Wilfredo Manlapaz of Tagum is out of the country. The bishop and some priests recovered the priest's body. They held his wake and funeral in Mary the Queen Seminary in Tagum, where Father Salac had studied.

"There are many questions about his death, but no one questions his dedication to the poor," a Tagum priest said.

"Bert (Father Salac) was always very honest and open to the bishop and priests. He told us in one of our meetings (in 1984) he could no longer stay in the institutional Church, but that he had to join the people in their struggle. Because he was always honest with us, we respected him and what he was trying to do," he said. UCAN

COLUMNIST CRITICIZES MIXED BUREAUCRACY IN ENERGY POLICY

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 5 Jun 87 p 4

[Commentary by Mao Chanco in "The Bookmaker" column: "Six Energy Heads, No Energy Policy"]

[Text]

THE Cabinet was scheduled to discuss the impending increase in the price of liquid fuels at last Wednesday's meeting. It didn't. The official explanation was that the whole morning was devoted to the agrarian reform issue. That may have been so. One suspects the real reason may have been that with as many as six Cabinet members having their fingers in the energy pie, it was found more expedient to defer the matter until a sharper consensus could be gotten.

Under those peculiar circumstances, postponing the decision to hike fuel oil prices may have been not just the smart, but the only logical thing to do. Sooner or later, however, the President and her Cabinet will have to cross that deadly energy bridge. When that time comes, the government will come face to face with one of the most unique (and dangerous) situations in the life of any modern state. It will lack the firm hand of a man specifically charged with implementing energy policy. Instead, energy initiatives will have to come from a howling mob more concerned with how to preserve its prerogatives and spheres of influence, than with finding permanent release from the energy monster.

Just how did the Cabinet get into this unbelievable energy mess?

As early as last year, the designated Secretary of Energy was Executive

Secretary Joker Arroyo and not Vicente Paterno, who assumed the deputy position. Despite his downgrading, Paterno discharged his position quietly and efficiently. He even managed to place the energy office in a state of readiness for alternative sources of fuel.

That arrangement broke up soon afterwards. A separate person, Manuel Estrella, took over the plum Philippine National Oil Company, flagship of the energy department. Then the Department of Environment and Natural Resources woke up one morning and Jun Factoran found himself named Secretary of Energy — and of Environment and Natural Resources. But PNOC and the other corporate branches of the old energy department were not included in the gift message. To this day, Factoran doesn't know what hit him. And no wonder. Nobody else does.

As though the situations were not complicated enough, new energy secretaries suddenly began erupting from the Malacanang woodwork. The alcohol alternative fuels plan fell into the lap of Trade and Industry Minister Jose Concepcion. Concepcion dealt alcohol a mortal blow by decreeing that the development of alcohol as an alternative fuel, while tolerated in R & D laboratories, would not do in motor vehicle or generator fuel tanks. He asked that the private sector, not the government, deal with alcohol development.

Picking up the cue from Concepcion, the Science and Technology Department volunteered to reinvent the alcohol wheel. Another new state-of-the-art conference to revalidate already established alcohol fuel technology was subsequently held at a Makati five-star hotel. No report on this event's conclusions and recommendations has yet reached the mass media. None is likely ever to.

* * *

The question is asked:

Will the appointment of a fulltime, full-coverage Secretary of Energy armed with the necessary powers make it easier for the Aquino government to deal frontally with the oil price problem? It might — provided the government is told truthfully that it *already has fuel alternatives* that can be resorted to, in case the prices of imported oil should go up further, as they are certain to do. Armed with that knowledge, plus the confidence that comes from knowing that national energy alternatives can create an economic boom instead of the bust that comes from having to import petro fuels abroad, today's energy tensions would surely ease. It could mean the difference between current energy policies running scared and running easy. It may even become inevitable that only one, not six energy

secretaries, would be named.

* * *

Senator-elect Ting Paterno's proposal to cut the PCGG's wings once Congress convenes apparently cut no ice with PCGG Commissioner Quintin Doromal. Doromal said his office would pledge P6 billion to the agrarian reform fund. He may be counting his chickens before they are hatched; PCGG faces two roadblocks. One is congressional confrontation, as in the Paterno proposal; which seeks to remove the climate of instability caused by indeterminate sequestration. The other is the judiciary, which still has to rule on the validity of the PCGG's freezer moves.

* * *

For the likes of those Paranaque Banco Filipino residents whose water supplies were recently cut, here's a tip. Contact Gov. Dodo Villareal of Capiz, or the Canadian IDRC, c/o the Canadian Embassy or the Press Foundation of Asia, 3rd floor, PAL Building, Romero Salas for information about their low-cost ferro-cement rainwater reservoirs. They're doing a heartwarming job with these reservoirs in the Panay uplands! Bookmaker also has leaflets on how to build your own energy-saving stoves. Send for your free copies, and don't forget to include unused stamps with your letter.

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CSO: 4200/670

TRADE SECRETARY ON INVESTMENT CODE, U.S. DELEGATION

Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 5 Jun 87 p 23

[Text]

President Corazon C. Aquino yesterday urged visiting American businessmen to invest in labor-intensive projects to alleviate the unemployment problem in the country.

The President made the invitation during a courtesy call by RP-US Business Council headed by Maurice Greenberg, president of the American International business group at the Premier Guest House.

Also present during the meeting were Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion Jr. and Press Secretary Teodoro C. Benigno.

In an interview, Greenberg told newsmen that "they are here in the country to

see if we can assist both labor and trade wherein to invest and help in the economic recovery program of the country."

Greenberg said that "they are looking into local products which can be export potential."

He described President Aquino as "very interested in the discussion and very supportive as well."

Concepcion, on the other hand, said that the group expressed to the President their desire to have the new investment code be finalized to protect foreign investors in the country.

"The investment code must match the incentives provided for by our Asean brothers," Concepcion stated.

He said one of the

main features of the new investment code is the "double deduction for labor cost component" designed to encourage more labor intensive industries.

Concepcion added: "We are also proposing tax holiday of five years for non-pioneers, and seven years for pioneers. We are considering a special incentive for the first two years."

He disclosed that the group also proposed certain areas for review that would bring about identification for new export markets.

"We are now looking at areas, like the electronics and garments industries," Concepcion said, adding "these industries are very high in labor component."

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CSO: 4200/670

TRADE SECRETARY SEEKS MORE ACCESS TO JAPAN

Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 3 Jun 87 p 21

[Article by Ellen P. Samaniego]

[Text]

Trade and Industry Secretary Jose S. Concepcion Jr. yesterday sought improved market access of locally-produced goods to Japan through maximization of the Japanese General Scheme of Preferences (GSP) and the improvement or lifting of quotas.

Concepcion, in a meeting between government officials and the visiting mission from Japan headed by former foreign minister. Dr. Saburo Okita, also proposed measures to enhance the entry of more Japanese investments in the country and requested for possible restructuring of the \$744.06 million loans earlier contracted by the National Development Co. and its three subsidiaries.

Concepcion, in an interview with the Bulletin, said total imports of Japan last year totalled \$140 billion, of which the Philippines accounted for only \$900 million.

To improve the access of Philippine products into the Japanese market, he

recommended the inclusion of eight more products under the Japanese GSP in a move to lower the duties from their present range of 30 to five percent or zero. These include fresh and canned pineapple, other fish liver oil, coconut oil, inedible molasses, chewing gum, mixed fruit and banana crackers.

He also asked for duty-free treatment for two other products under the GSP such as the fresh mangoes and lauan lumber as well as higher quota ceilings and flexible administration of such quotas for seven products in the GSP.

DTI also sought lifting of quotas on the country's exports of kalamansi juice and that imposition of duties on garments exports be made only on the value-added, using fabrics imported from Japan.

Concepcion similarly proposed that portions of the development assistance, grants and loans from Japan be channelled to the export sector, the small and medium scale in-

dustries as well as rehabilitation of certain industries such as cement and textile.

In the area of investments, he suggested that Japanese-based industries which have become uncompetitive due to the substantial appreciation of the yen be identified for possible relocation in the country.

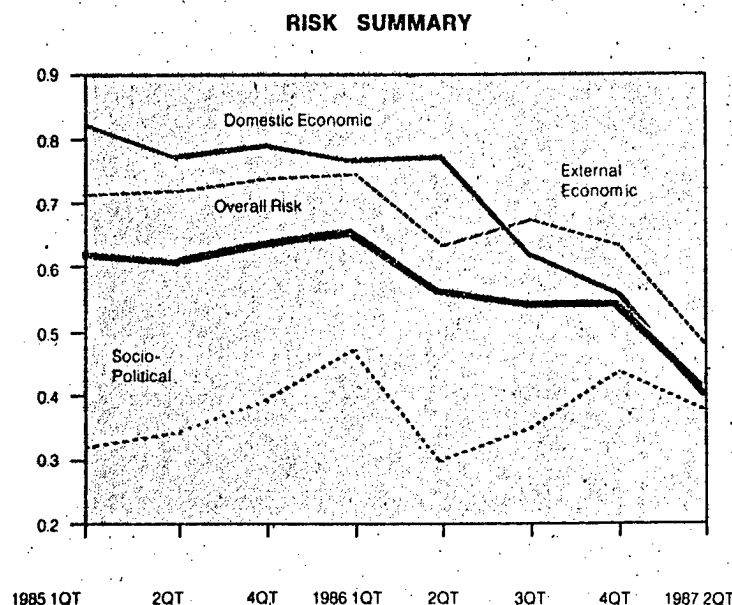
Among recipients of Japan's private direct overseas investments in various countries totalling \$83.6 billion from 1951 to 1985, the Philippines ranked the lowest among the Asean countries with only \$892 million or 1.06 percent as compared with Indonesia's \$8.4 billion, or 10.05 percent.

At the same time, Concepcion requested for the restructuring of the \$744.06 million extended by Japanese financial institutions to the National Development Co. which accounts for \$20.61 million; the Philippine Plate Mills, with \$75.95 million; and the Philippine Phosphate Fertilizer Corp., with \$219.38 million.

RISK CONSULTANCY FORESEES AGRICULTURE GROWTH, ECONOMIC BOOST

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 14 Jun 87 pp 8, 7

[Text]



AGRICULTURAL production will grow by at least 3.8 per cent in 1987 and will continue to be the growth sector this year thus helping fuel the country's economic recovery efforts, according to a forecast made by the Political and Economic (P and E) Risk, Consultancy, Ltd.

P and E Risk Consultancy, Ltd. is a private consultancy firm offering a wide range of political and economic research services. It publishes its quarterly risk reports to help companies anticipate developments in a particular country for the short and medium term.

Despite setbacks in coconut and coffee production in 1987, the agricultural sector, along with the forestry and fishing industry, is expected to increase its volume of production this year.

The expected growth in agricultural production should benefit more than half of the country's labor force who are presently engaged in agricultural production activities. It is also expected to boost total export earnings considering that 60 per cent of the country's export earnings come from agriculture, the consultancy firm predicted.

The consultancy firm also forecast inflation rates to increase this year in view of rising costs in prices of consumer items. Inflation rates in urban areas, placed at eight per cent, will be three per cent higher than the rate of inflation in rural areas.

Inflation rates, however, will not hit the double-digit range,

the consultancy firm said. This is because the country's exchange rates would remain stable, food prices would be relatively cheap and the government's fiscal and monetary policies are already defined.

Government would also spend more for agriculture, housing, education and health, the consultancy firm noted.

The government would also push for the privatization of government-owned or controlled corporations. The sale of non-performing assets, such as the PNB and the DBP, would also be accelerated to help finance the government's multi-billion peso comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP).

The government's NPAs are now estimated at P108 billion and unless they are disposed soon, an aggressive fiscal policy will be impossible.

The government's privatization program, however, has yielded only limited results so far. The government's debt-to-equity scheme, introduced last August, has only attracted applications worth US\$300 million.

Potential investors, on the other hand, are still waiting on how the government would treat the initial applications. Unfortunately, the consultancy firm noted, the government's response was less than enthusiastic considering that selective evaluation to date has only resulted in approvals of only \$38 million.

With the problems regarding the huge financing for the government's ambitious land reform program, however, the government would have to take quick steps

to raise more revenues to finance the program. This will almost certainly entail speeding up the sale of the government's NPAs.

The consultancy firm further predicted that government corporation, including the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), the Ports Authority, the Irrigation Authority and the Electrification Administration will likely incur an P11.6 billion deficit in their operations this year. This budget deficit would reach P13.7 billion in 1988, it further predicted.

There will be a lower budget deficit in 1987 compared to last year's however, according to the consultancy firm's forecast. The budget deficit will be limited P20.7 billion this year, or 3.1 per cent of the GNP. This should compare favorably with last year's budget deficit which reached P28.1 billion, or 4.6 per cent of last year's GNP.

Taking into account also the rest of the public sector's deficit, including government-owned or controlled corporations, total public sector borrowing requirements this year will reach P23.9 billion, which is 3.5 per cent of total GNP.

This implies a public investment program equivalent to around 5 per cent of the GNP. Spending will be concentrated on economic and social services, particularly education.

Social services, on the other hand, will increase their share of spending from 21.5 per cent this year to 39.2 per cent in 1992 while the economic services' share of spending will increase from 19.9 per cent this year to 39.2 per cent in 1992.

The bulk of such spending will go to agriculture, transportation, power and electrification while the defense budget, which used to received the lion's share of 14 per cent during the Marcos' regime, will be reduced to 7-8 per cent this year.

Total public sector expenditures are also expected to increase 12.6 per cent this year amounting to some P120 billion.

Revenues are likewise expected to increase by at least 26 per cent amounting to some P100 billion, mainly as a result of a more efficient implementation of tax reform measures which started last year. Foreign aid donors have also committed nearly a third more this year amounting to some P35 billion.

The consultancy firm, however, predicted the country's external accounts to deteriorate in the short and medium term. This is because imports are seen to exceed exports resulting in a trade imbalance.

While total exports are projected to reach P5.2 billion this year, imports are expected to reach \$6.3 billion, resulting in a trade imbalance of \$1.1 billion.

With the initial stages of economic recovery based mainly on domestic-oriented industries like construction, the country's volume of imports are expected to increase dramatically.

Because of this, imports are expected to grow by at least 20 per cent this year and the next.

Among the factors which would bring about the surge in imports are the faster rate of domestic economic growth which would fuel demand for various raw material and consumer good imports as well as the shortage in cement requiring imports to sustain the upturn in construction activity.

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CSO: 4200/675

WEEKLY HITS AQUINO ON INEFFECTUAL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Manila MR & MS (Special Edition) in English 29 May-4 Jun 87 pp 21, 22

[Article by Bernardo V. Lopez: "A Human Rights Commission Without Rights"]

[Text]

OUR emerging human rights crisis begins and ends with Cory, who is perceived as both catalyst and impediment to human rights advocacy. This was gathered from a recent interview with the now-defunct Philippine Commission on Human Rights (PCHR). In the eyes of human rights advocates, the presidency in the stranglehold of the military is the greatest weakness of the present administration.

Because Ninoy, her husband, was a human rights victim, Cory was naturally a human rights advocate: a wife feeling the pain of having an incarcerated husband rather than a stateswoman feeling the pain of the oppressed masses. Her personal advocacy saw the immediate release of the top rebels who were jailed by Marcos and who became Ninoy's cellmates and friends — Buscayno, Morales, and others. She

knew their pain from Ninoy's accounts in Boston after he was released. But when top rebel truce negotiator Rodolfo Salas, alias Ka Roger, was caught, she could not work up the same motivations to release him, risking the ceasefire itself when the National Democratic Front demanded his release.

The PCHR was a brain child not of Cory but of the late nationalist Jose Diokno, its chairman. Diokno helped Cory run against Marcos in the snap election "with the understanding" (in the words of ex-Justice J.B.L. Reyes, vice-chairman of the PCHR) that she would establish a human rights commission if she won. Weeks after the Revolution, Cory fulfilled her promise in March 1986. The PCHR commissioners include Diokno, Reyes, Nini Quezon Avancena (GABRIELA), Sr. Mariani Dimaranan (Task Force

Detainees), William Claver (ex-governor of Kalinga Apayao), Haydee Yorac (replaced by Abelardo Aportadera, Jr. when she joined the Commission on Elections), and the lone soldier, Gen. Samuel Soriano (head of the Judge Advocate General's Office or JAGO).

From the start, the PCHR was a paper tiger, having only advisory functions and no powers to prosecute. But Diokno banked on Cory's loyalty to human rights to perform the *coup de grace* of prosecution.

On 7 May 1987, PCHR members found that the commission had been abolished by Malacanang to be replaced by another commission. The former commission members bewailed this "shabby treatment", not having been informed or warned of the coming dissolution of their office. In a joint statement signed by Reyes, Avancena and Dimaranan, the former

commissioners said they found out about it only in the media — "(since) it was abolished, the old committee had been at a loss . . . being non-existent. It could not perform its functions any further, not even winding up its own affairs."

The PCHR members had resigned in early January to protest the killing of rallyists on Mendiola, but were prevailed upon by Aquino to remain in their positions. Said Sr. Mariani to a columnist: "We were badly nudged by the government then."

Today, the 700-odd PCHR cases now in limbo (because of the sudden abolition of the PCHR), 500 of which are based on abuses committed during the dreaded Marcos days, many have been passed on to Cory for action. As of today, NO ACTION has been taken on ANY cases given by the PCHR. The bottleneck is in Cory's court. J.B.L. Reyes suspects that "military pressures" and "U.S. pressures" beleaguer our President.

Reyes believes Cory needs the support of Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos and his boys because of the successive coups launched against her. And Cory may be beholden to the Americans for helping find solutions to the insurgency problem, which only the military can solve. Yet, Reyes argues that "the military solution", the downfall of Marcos, may also become Cory's Waterloo. "Marcos used it and got nowhere," says

Reyes. For the Marcos solution saw the rise of his enemies and his fall.

Cory, on the ground of a constitutional provision, finally gave the *coup de grace* to the human rights crisis by abolishing the PCHR which, says Reyes, was done without consultation, warning, transitory provisions, or appointment of new members. Executive Order 163 stated abolition to "take effect immediately" on 7 May, one week before election. Were they in a hurry to court the military votes? Asked if there was U.S. pressure involved, Reyes says, "I won't be surprised." As of this writing, only the new head has been appointed, Abelardo Aportadera, Jr., who recently replaced now COMELEC commissioner Haydee Yorac. Sources claimed that Aportadera has John Singlaub, intelligence agent, as retainer and some soldiers as clients in his law firm. Aportadera denied all these categorically.

The question now is: will the new members be military-endorsed? Asked if the old members will be reappointed, Aportadera says, "It's up to the President." Does the military want the old members out due to their past conflicts? Prospective new members are Constitutional Commissioner Ed Garcia, Ambassador Cesar Augusto Espiritu, (head of the Asian Coalition of Human Rights Organizations), and Dra. Sylvia de la Paz (wife of human rights victim Bobby), all of whom

may not really be "military-endorsed". Reyes argues that the temporary functions given the PCHR until turnover is not possible because it runs counter to Executive Order 163. "Joker can't amend an executive order," he says. *De facto*, the 700-odd PCHR cases are in limbo.

The bone of contention in the crisis is a Marcos decree, P.D. 1850, which relinquishes all military cases to a military court, an alleged conflict of interest. Lately, PCHR has been running after human rights abuses committed after the Revolution, which makes Cory insecure. She is bothered by the fact that her administration appears to have more cases than Marcos', which taints her image. Reyes' answer is simple — Marcos suppressed human rights cases, and kept them unrecorded.

PCHR's first move was to ask Cory to repeal P.D. 1850, which exists to this day, rendering human rights advocacy totally helpless. The "co-heroes" of the Revolution, former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Ramos, had their way to the detriment of thousands of human rights victims. According to Reyes, the PCHR had a dialogue with the military (including Gens. Aguirre and Ermita), which naturally rejected the abolition of P.D. 1850 to protect their own kind. Both sides gave new versions of an amended P.D. 1850, but to date, they languish on Cory's desk. P.D. 1850 lives.

Other PCHR requests to Cory have also been shelved. The PCHR recommended a new decree to place "principal responsibility" of human rights abuses on officers, not so much on privates who are merely triggermen. Again, no action. The PCHR also proposed that soldiers under human rights investigation should not be promoted until cleared. The military objected, asking instead for the declassification of human rights cases, which the PCHR keeps highly secret to protect witnesses. Cory promised to talk to Ramos about it. Again, no action. To Reyes, PCHR had only one victory -- the disapproval of the general amnesty for erring soldiers. But then, Cory knew how angry the people were. Do we now have an administration not of principle but of compromise?

When Cory decided to "use force" when the truce talks failed, Reyes feels it was the military and the U.S. who were talking, not the gentle Cory. Cory as mouth-piece of powers-that-be is also exemplified by the vigilante affair. The PCHR had no objections to the vigilantes provided (1) *they remained unarmed* (they ARE armed in spite of Cory's decree that they remain unarmed. Also, Secretary of Local Government Jaime Ferrer insists *bolos* are not arms.), (2) *membership is voluntary* (there are allegations of forced recruitment, or at least, the saying goes -- if you're not for us, you are against us, i.e. Com-

/9274

CSO: 4200/670

munists), (3) *no human rights abuses are done* (there are many recorded cases of abuses, some admitted by the military as "minimal"), (4) *only locals known to the people are to be recruited* (there are reports of hired goons and ex-soldiers with notorious reputations, and many are not known by the locals).

On all counts, the vigilantes are functioning the way the military and Ferrer wants it, and it fits the low intensity conflict (LIC) concept perfect in Latin America, in spite of Cory's "precautions". (Reyes adds that the predecessor of Col. Frank Calida, Alsa Masa organizer, was replaced when he objected to the plan, reinforcing the LIC theory.)

The Civilian Home Defense Forces is the thorn in Cory's throat. Knowing that the Constitution provides for its abolition (*Sec. 24 of Transitory Provisions*), Cory abolished the CHDF instantly before election. After a few days, she added "subject to further studies". Was there military pressure here? Finally, following the footsteps of Marcos with his arrestive PCO-to-PDA plan, Cory "renames" the CHDF into Citizen's Army, virtually skirting the Constitution. The latest is -- she cannot abolish the CHDF yet because there is no money to fund its replacement. Is it Cory talking or some generals? Reyes hints that the military may skirt the Constitutional provision abolishing "paramilitary

forces" by making them part of the regular army somehow.

After the Mendiola massacre, PCHR commissioners threatened to resign *en masse* if Ramos was not removed and if those responsible were not tried. Cory, fearing embarrassment, asked Diokno and his boys to stay, promising to appoint an investigation committee. It recommended the prosecution of Jaime Tadeo and an "administrative castigation" of the officers-in-charge.

One case disappoints human rights advocates even more. Cory placed the lone military casualty in the Lupao massacre on a pedestal in her PMA graduation speech, hinting that she was appeasing "her" soldiers. Thus 17 victims and the soldiers who fired the shots have been forgotten. Justice to date has not been given. (PCHR investigation, which preceded the military's, established premeditations since the New People's Army had withdrawn when the victims, including women and children, were told to sit and were shot in the back, 17 eyes for an eye, a product of blind rage for the lone military casualty, a young lieutenant idolized by his men who did the shooting.)

To date, no civilian entity is capable of prosecuting erring soldiers. Are they the true untouchables of post-EDSA jurisprudence? If Marcos' weakness was dictatorship, Cory's might be the opposite -- total compromise. M M

DURANO OUTLINES SCHEME TO CAPTURE CEBU POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 3 Jun 87 pp 1, 6

[Article by Joe Quirino: "Durano Gears Up for Power Struggle"]

[Text]

DANAO CITY — Ramon M. Durano, undisputed political kingpin of Cebu's 5th district and whose son survived the Cory Aquino political juggernaut in Cebu in the last elections, has a blueprint for capturing political leadership soon throughout Cebu.

"I'll support all the 38 elected oppositionist mayors of Cebu, who had been replaced by OICs, in the coming local polls," he told *The Manila Times* in an exclusive interview last night.

"Two of my sons will run for mayor. Tadeo, who was mayor of Sogod town before he was replaced by an OIC, will run in Sogod, while Ramon Jr. will run for mayor of this city."

Last May 11, another Durano son, Ramon III, won as representative in the 5th district which includes this city.

Showing that he can be compassionate, Durano said: "If Rebomafil Holganza, the defeated PDP-Laban candidate in Cebu's 2nd district, will not run for governor of Cebu, I'll support Nita Cortez Daluz, the lady whom my son defeated in the 5th district, for the Cebu governorship, if she'll decide to run.

"Actually, I'm not putting up my own candidate for Cebu governor, but no candidate can

win the post without my support," he said.

Political observers believe this is no idle boast by Durano. The overwhelming victory of his son in the last congressional election proves that he still commands a big chunk of the votes in the 5th district.

If he fulfills his promise to support the 38 opposition mayors who had been replaced by OICs (Cebu has 48 mayors), and most of his candidates win in this year's local polls, then Durano will have indeed captured the provincial leadership of Cebu.

"I have no doubt that I will survive the Aquino era, as I have survived other political eras in the past," Durano declared.

"Politics is just like volleyball -- you change court when it's necessary. I've always gone to the opposite side of the Osmenas. That's why I sided with Magsaysay because Sergio Osmena was with Quirino in 1953. I went with Garcia in 1961 because Sergio was with Macapagal. Finally, I sided with Marcos in 1965 because Sergio was still with Macapagal."

"It's been more than a year since I last talked with Ferdinand Marcos," the 82-year-old veteran politician said.

Without saying it directly,

Durano indicated that he would like to make peace with President Aquino.

Only recently, he told some American newsmen: "Cory Aquino has only been in office for a year. Let's give her a chance."

Although most people remember Durano as a staunch Marcos supporter ("I'm a Marcos loyalist, but I'm not a crony -- I don't owe Marcos a single centavo," he says), his lifelong struggle for power in Cebu involved political contests with the Osmena clan.

That's why Cebuanos were surprised when Senator-elect John Osmena conceded the victory of Ramon Durano III in the 5th district, even against the objections of the Cory candidate, Inday Nita Daluz.

"At the start of our marathon political fight," Durano recalls, "Serging Osmena had more money but less guns, while I had more guns but less money."

Durano published recently his autobiography.

"Perhaps I should now reveal a secret," he wrote in that book. "Politics in Cebu is not like playing in the Olympic Games. It is a battle of survival in a very physical sense."

The Grand Old Man of Cebu's 5th district has indeed proven that he's a survivor.

EDITORIAL LAUDS PUBLIC SERVICE UNIONS, OPPOSES 'AGITATORS'

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 4 Jun 87 p 4

[Editorial: "A Liberating Blow"]

[Text]

PRESIDENT Aquino has delivered what can be described as a liberating blow for organized labor by issuing an executive order laying down guidelines for the formation of unions in the public service in accordance with the new Constitution. The new policy should go a long way in appeasing the thousands of government employees who have been chafing for years at their inability to fight collectively for better working conditions.

There is no doubt that employment terms in the civil service, while decidedly better in many respects than those in the private sector, still leave much to be desired.

A case in point is that of teachers. Although they have a very powerful organization, the Philippine Public School Teachers Association, in numerical terms, they have not been able as a body to flex their muscle, so to speak, for the simple reason that civil service rules in the past have been rigidly strict against any form of labor protest.

And so, while government employees generally may have obtained pay increases and other benefits, public school teachers have been left out in the cold, most of them receiving salaries that can

hardly make ends meet and which are not, by any measure, commensurate with their duties and responsibilities as well as with their vital role as leaders of the community where they teach.

With their newfound right to form unions, public school teachers and other civil servants can now look forward to a more fruitful and rewarding relationship with the government. It is to be hoped that they will exercise that right judiciously, not just for their own good but, more importantly, for the good of the public service as a whole.

There is today, therefore, a great and urgent need for responsible leaders among the government's rank-and-file to come forward and guide the new unions during their formative stage to an enlightened era of employer-employee relationship. Steps must be taken to ensure that negotiations for better pay and conditions are undertaken in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual respect. For, in the final analysis, the actual employer of all civil servants is Juan de la Cruz himself, who has to pay taxes year in and year out to maintain the government.

It is very clear, then, that agitators and their likes have no place in these unions.

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CSO: 4200/670

REGULATORY CHAIRMAN SAYS SUGAR CARTEL TALKS FAIL

Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 5 Jun 87 p 25

[Article by Michael M. Alunan]

[Text]

Moves to form anew a cartel-like world sugar organization now seem to be heading nowhere as members of the long-dormant International Sugar Organization (ISO) are still actively undercutting each other behind their backs.

The uncertainty over the fate of ISO and the internal trade squabbles are seen only to dampen further prices to the disadvantage of small sugar-producing nations like the Philippines.

Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Chairman Arsenio B. Yulo, who has just returned from London where he attended a meeting aimed at reviving the ISO, told a press conference, "Our trip will again be useless."

"The big four sugar-producers — Cuba, Brazil, Australia

and the European Economic Community (EEC) — are stubborn and have not even come into an agreement among themselves," Yulo said.

He said that the London meeting of the International Sugar Council (ISC), the policy-making body of the ISO which concludes the International Sugar Agreement (ISA), did not achieve anything substantial.

The ISC was supposed to discuss a scheduled November ISO conference which may even have to be postponed for next year.

He added that two coming meetings on June 13 to 14 and by the third week of July will be held to "discuss only the administrative and not the economic conditions of the new ISA." It will also be decided whether the November

meeting will be pushed through.

A representative from Australia told Yulo that the big four is "adamant to come out with a positive decision even to discuss only the November conference."

The big four shares about 60 percent of the world export market, with Cuba producing six million metric tons of sugar, Brazil with about the same volume, and Australia and the EEC producing 3.5 million metric tons each, Yulo said.

Only the group of six composed of Argentina, the Dominican Republic, India, Thailand, South Africa, and the Philippines is bent on forging a new ISA which will set export quotas to all member countries in a bid to regulate supply and demand in order to push up prices.

REACTION MIXED TO AQUINO KIN IN ELECTIVE OFFICE

Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 4 Jun 87 pp 1, 9

[Article by Nick T. Enciso]

[Text]

There is mixed reaction to the election of presidential relatives in the new Congress.

Critics of the government regard it with disdain, but most other people seem to approve.

The close relatives of President Aquino who were proclaimed by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) as members of the House of Representatives are Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Tarlac, the President's brother; Francisco "Komong" Sumulong, Rizal, an uncle; Tessie Aquino Oreta, Malabon; Navotas, a sister-in-law; Herminio Aquino, Tarlac, her husband's uncle; and Egmidio "Ding" Tanjuatco, Rizal, a cousin.

As relatives of President Aquino in Congress, they are under observation by critics who claimed that any shortcomings they will commit

as legislators will be a negative factor to Malacanang.

They are where they are because they were the choices of the voters in their own constituencies. They were elected, not appointed, other observers said.

Among these relatives are veteran legislators who have already proven that they can stand on their own. They are Cojuangco, Sumulong, and Tanjuatco. They were in politics long before Mrs. Aquino became President. Expected to show their mettle are neophytes Oreta and Herminio Aquino.

While the President refused to lift a finger in their congressional bids, they managed to win on their own. Two or three other congressional candidates, who are also presidential relatives lost.

A political scientist from the University of the Philippines justified the open and official participation of presidential relatives in Congress as beneficial to the country and the leadership of President Aquino.

The close relatives of the President are subject to public censorship and suits before the Tanodbayan or

other courts.

Cojuangco said he wants to participate actively in the deliberation of laws and policies in Congress.

He added that when his sister Cory sought the presidency in the Feb. 7, 1986 "snap" polls, all members of the Cojuangco family helped her face the risks.

They did it, he said, not for family glory, but to realize the dream of the late former senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. — to restore freedom to the people.

However, critics of the administration assail the presence of many relatives of the President in government claiming that there is a virtual nepotism in the bureaucracy. The critics refuse to admit that as elected officials, the President's relatives are not under her control.

Opposition leaders said they are watching Mrs. Aquino's relatives "very closely."

But other observers said the President's relatives in Congress will serve as "bridges" between the legislative and the executive branches of the government, leading to the success of the Aquino government.

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CSO: 4200/670

POLITICIAN DESCRIBES METHOD OF ALLEGED POLL CHEATING

Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 1 Jun 87 pp 17, 38

[Article by Virgilio P. Robles, former MP and Caloocan City mayor candidate for congressman, 1st District, Caloocan City: "Cheating, 1987 Style"]

[Text] During the Marcos era cheating in elections was an art with the dictator himself being the foremost patron. During those days the art was practiced with finesse. Excess ballots were printed by the private contractors and distributed among the aficionados. When election comes ballot switching was the order of the day. So that when canvass comes along everything go on smoothly. Cheating those days were done at the precinct level and was very expensive as cooperation of the Board of Inspectors was indispensable.

Now-a-days cheating has been centralized in the Board of Canvassers. Our informant told us that cheating thru the Board of Canvassers is cheaper than cheating on the precinct level.

"Under the former style you have to talk to and spend for as many Board of Inspectors as there are precinct fixed, but not anymore now as you only have to confer with one board — the Board of Canvassers; the saying 'its cheaper by the dozen' does not apply," they say.

That is exactly what happened in the congressional elections in Caloocan City's two districts. The teachers (Board of Inspectors) conducted the elections honestly and peacefully and prepared the election returns faithfully. Even during the canvass of election returns conducted by the Board of Canvassers, the figures indicated as the number of votes received by each candidate were faithfully read and party and candidate representatives were able to check and record them. But then the trouble starts in the tabulation conducted by the Board of Canvassers — many of them were altered, changed or falsified with votes of favored candidates padded. So that when the votes are finally counted or computed, the favored candidate who instigated the cheating leads.

The first district of Caloocan City is the typical example of this new method of cheating at the Board of Canvassers level. Last Monday, May 25, the Board finished the canvassing of the returns coming from the district's 596 precincts and some of the computers unofficially informed me that I won over candidate Romeo L. Santos by 475 votes as follows:

Robles — 21,298

Santos — 20,823

After I was so informed I asked the Board for a Certificate of Canvass but they told me they will still prepare the corresponding document and supporting papers and informed us that it will be ready by Wednesday, May 27, 1987.

By Wednesday, May 27, 1987, my watchers and I were refused entry to the canvassing room and we failed to watch the tabulation proceedings then being conducted by the Board of Canvassers. At that instance 82 entries in the Statement of Votes by Precincts (C.E.F. No. 27-A) corresponding to 48 precincts were falsified, altered or changed to make it appear that candidate Santos got 1,038 more votes and I got less 158 votes. Per said alterations and falsifications a total of 520 votes were taken away from candidates Bautista, Jacinto, Joaquin, Gonzalvo, Tamayo, Duran, Guerrero and Dondillo.

The alteration or falsification may be clearly seen by a comparison of the election returns figures with the figures appearing on the STATEMENT OF VOTES BY PRECINCT (C.E.F. No. 27-A)

We do not recommend this new style of cheating as it resulted in 82 counts of falsification cases before the Tanodbayan and a case of Violation of Sec. 239 of the Election Law before the COMELEC all against the Board of Canvassers.

BATAAN REBEL ON RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 9 Jun 87 pp 1, 6

[Article by Teresa Tunay: "We're Not Godless, Says Rebel Leader"]

[Text] Lamao, Bataan--"It is not true that we don't believe in God. People just have different concepts of God. For others, God is the one who created everything but who cannot be seen; for us, God is the people." These are the words of Ka Noel, a leader of the underground Pambansang Kaisahan ng mga Magbubukin and the Rebolusyonaryong Kilusan ng mga Nagingisda, two organisations under the fold of the National Democratic Front, in an exclusive interview with THE MANILA TIMES Last Sunday here.

An ex-seminarian, catechist and acolyte, Ka Noel decried the popular reference to communism as a "godless ideology" in today's media. Ka Noel said while they in the underground movement tolerated and respected the religious beliefs of others, they firmly believed that the country's economic and political problems could not be solved by religion.

He said: "Religion is too idealistic to be of any use to us. It only raises your hopes for nothing. It prolongs the people's suffering by glorifying the idea of suffering. Be patient? You as poor as more blessed? Don't react-- that's what God wants, avoid trouble. How can you bear poverty with meakness? As a man, you ought to be concerned with society, you ought to face your problems and work for their solution. You can't say "don't kill" when you are

already being killed."

Ka Noel added: "Our idea of God has a practical base, not an invisible being who controls everything. God is in man and in nature, and nobody can help man but man himself."

Dismissing the existence of any unseen power or being who might be concerned with the affairs of man, Ka Noel also shrugged off the role of prayers in the relatively peaceful EDSA revolt on Feb. 25, 1986.

"It happened because people were already angry; it was peace-

ful because of commands; for the military to hold fire, for Malacanang to be vacated. Prayers had nothing to do with it. Cardinal Sin just happened to be in the picture. With or without him, the whole thing would have happened just the same. It was not because of the prayers that it was bloodless -- they're still praying now, but how come it's even bloodier than ever?"

Reminded of a comrade who recently narrowly escaped death by ambush days after being prayed over by a Protestant

pentecostal missionary, Ka Noel snorted: "He escaped death because of skill. He had presence of mind and he applied the skills he learned in training, our training."

Ka Noel admitted that although they did not see religion as an effective panacea, they did not question everything about it because "there is also something beautiful in it, like, it teaches you to love your neighbor."

They do not even pass judgment on what some people might perceive to be "injustices" or discriminatory practices committed by some members of the clergy, said Ka Noel.

"We do not take it against the Church that some people want first-class baptism or Betamax coverage of their wedding from the moment the bride steps out of the shower — if they can afford it, it's fine with us."

"We have nuns and priests among us, after all. Our concern is the practice of the businessman or the capitalist, if he wants to burn all his money in Hong-kong, that's his problem, but first, is he fair to his workers? If his worker is supposed to be receiving a daily wage of 50 pesos, and he pays him only 30 but makes him sign for 50 simply because the poor worker

badly needs employment, that is what we're against."

Reacting to reports of NPA members desiring a church burial for dead comrades, Ka Noel explained; "We don't try to stop them. These ceremonies are after all part of our culture as Filipinos. Even when the priest refuses to bless our dead, saying they won't be admitted to heaven because they're communists or killers, we go around the problem by threatening to leave the corpses in the church. Our point is, how can our dead not be admitted to heaven when we've paid our dues? There's a price on the service; we pay, he accepts our payment, therefore our dead goes to heaven."

As added proof of their own brand of religious tolerance, Ka Noel said he had nothing against his son becoming a (Protestant) pastor. His 21-year-old son, now studying in Manila, finished a correspondence course in Bible Study and is now being recruited to become a minister.

Ka Noel also admitted having attended mass himself, as well as weddings celebrated by Catholic priests among members of the underground movement in Ba-

taan. However, he said they neither asked nor were told about the meaning of the Eucharist.

"We hold such celebrations because our families want them. For example, if an NPA soldier marries a lowlander and her family insists on a church wedding, we have a church wedding. If the priests among us want to say mass, we don't stop our members from participating. But we don't ask why the host is raised or about the meaning of the wine — we don't go to that level. We see Jesus as a revolutionary man in a feudal society, we don't care about other things."

Ka Noel also said they didn't even care enough to believe or disbelieve in heaven and hell. "We believe, though, that we will be judged — by the people," Ka Noel said.

"When you die, you'll be asked what you did when you were alive. The people's judgment will determine whether you will be remembered with honor or contempt."

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CSO: 4200/675

FACTIONS DEBATE POPULATION, LIFE QUALITY ISSUES

Davao MINDANAO TIMES in English 28 May-4 Jun 87 p 6

[Article: "Pro-life and Pro-choice--Two Views on Population"]

[Text]

"The issue in population today is not pro-life vs. pro-choice. These are labels invented and used by foreign societies, like those in the United States, whose values are alien or different from those of Filipinos."

Thus declared Purificacion Quisumbing, Ph.D., director of the Academy of Asean Law and Jurisprudence of the University of the Philippines' Law Center.

The Pro-Life movement, spearheaded by several civic organizations, supports the Catholic Church's stand that the State has no right to set population levels, and that the first concern in family planning is fertility awareness. Fertility awareness is basically natural family planning. It is knowing when one is fertile or infertile and abstaining from sexual intercourse on fertile days.

This portion was presented by Sister Pilar Verzosa, RGS, coordinator of the Pro-Life movement, in a recent interview.

The "pro-choice" groups, on the other hand, believe that it is the responsibility of the State to set population levels ideal to development,

and this can be partly achieved by giving married couples the freedom to choose from among several contraceptive methods, including NFP.

Both groups shun abortion, which is illegal in the Philippines.

Dr. Quisumbing, who is also a lawyer, believes that a movement for quality life should be initiated instead. She said that the new Constitution is explicit on this: "All persons should not be deprived of life without due process of law." This does not mean just the right to exist or to breathe. It means a right to live a life worth living.

A child who depends on the garbage dump for his livelihood is not enjoying his right to life, Quisumbing asserted. This is not the intent of the Constitution, she said. The intent of the new Charter is for everyone to have the opportunity to fully develop their lives.

Stressing that she was speaking as a private citizen, Quisumbing said that she is not against the "version of the pro-life group." She emphasized, however, that "we

should not narrow down our moves to attain the same objective, that is, a better life for all Filipinos. How to achieve this objective should be the subject of an open public debate."

Quisumbing also said that the level of population, the access to resources, and the satisfaction of basic human rights are very closely linked to peace and order. Because of this close correlation, population levels have to be monitored "so that our growth rate and our population rate

are carefully harmonized."

Quisumbing said that now is the time to ventilate views on the population problem. She observed that an ill-conceived population program is a threat to constitutional rights when, for example, the religious beliefs of spouses are not respected. Whereas a well-conceived program becomes in fact a tool for the protection of constitutional rights such as when, for example, the right to life becomes meaningful because there is a healthy balance between population and resources.

The new constitution is silent on whether the government is allowed or disallowed to adopt a policy to promote a particular method of family planning to the exclusion of other methods, Quisumbing said. The Philippine Population Program, however, should look not only into the protection of constitutional rights but into the protection of basic Filipino values as well: "If we just import ideas on population control from other countries without taking into consideration our own values, then any kind of population program will not only be a threat to basic rights but will fail from the very beginning."

A different, though not necessarily clashing, perspective was given by Sister Pilar of Pro-Life.

Sister Pilar believes that the issue is not contraceptives or family planning methods. What Pro-Life questions is whether or not the State should make it a policy to curb the growth rate of the Filipino people.

She said the previous

administration was unsuccessful in meeting its population targets, and that the present administration has reset attaining zero population growth rate (a situation where births plus immigration equals deaths plus emigration) to the year 2010: "We believe that they will not again be able to achieve that unless they have stronger measures."

Sister Pilar said that Pro-Life was already airing its objections even before the (present) government implemented these measures "because we would want to see the government attending to the people at large and not the numbers of people."

She maintained that we do have other urgent problems like poverty, lack of health services, and malnutrition: "We believe that the overemphasis on overpopulation as the major determinant to the economic condition of the country is refusal to face other issues like foreign economic policies, labor laws, housing, and so on, that are keeping the people poor."

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CSO: 4200/677

ARMY'S OPERATIONS AT CHONG BOK STILL ATTRACT CRITICISM

Publisher Views Attacks on Army

Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 28 May 87 p 66

[Speak Thai column by Rattana Yawapraphat: "Opposition Attacks the Military"]

[Excerpts] The attacks on the military by the opposition parties have been systematic and continuous. It is believed that some of the illegal leaflets and terrible rumors about the military and military leaders have come from opposition parties. The army as an institution and individual officers have had to respond to these charges. But in this tense political situation, the government and the military are at a disadvantage. The prime minister has held this position for almost 7 years and so several interest groups feel very constricted. They are starting to cooperate with the opposition to put pressure on Gen Prem Tinsulanon to "abandon ship" soon. The political center is beginning to feel that if they don't cooperate in putting pressure on the prime minister, they will miss a golden opportunity.

Given this situation, the opposition has started to attack the nerve center of the military. It is trying to turn the events at Chong Bok into a major issue. The government has been charged with concealing the fighting there. The opposition claims that our forces have suffered heavy casualties and is demanding an answer in parliament. Clearly, until the government makes up its mind about whether or not to respond, it will be the military that takes the brunt of the attack. In particular, it will be the army and the RTA CINC, who is responsible for this military ground operation, who will come under attack. The longer the government and the army wait to respond to the opposition's charges, the more criticism the opposition and people will heap on them.

This is the toughest battle that Gen Prem has faced during his five terms, all unelected, as prime minister. People are now watching to see if he can survive to the end of 1987. He still has many tricks up his sleeve. But the storm breaking over him packs enough wallop to knock off the new pieces that he has placed on the board if the soldiers whom he regards as his important base continue to come under such strong attack.

The military must remember the recent bitter past. They lost their way and worked only to preserve their own interests, and this resulted in shameful

failure for the military. Meeting with the people and becoming friends with the people will help protect the soldiers both today and tomorrow. The word "soldiers" here does not refer to any particular person. I am not referring to Prem or Chawalit. I am referring to all soldiers, including those who are retired and those who are still on active duty. The soldiers who support democracy and serve the people are the ones whom the people will not forget. These are the ones who will have the cooperation of the people.

Columnist: Opposition Playing Politics

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 21 May 87 p 5

[Fact and Fancy column by Wanli Wanlop]

[Excerpt] Samak Sunthonwet and his colleagues have submitted an urgent motion to the Speaker of the House in order to question the minister of defense. There are several issues involved. But most importantly, the opposition parties wonder why the army has sent forces to fight at Chong Bok and why so many of our soldiers have been killed.

Looking at this motion, the opposition parties feel certain that this will have the support of lower-ranking soldiers, because it is the privates and NCOs who have to do most of the fighting. The officers usually stay at their headquarters. The important thing is that there are more NCOs than commissioned officers. The opposition party of Samak realizes this and so it has hurried to submit this motion in parliament.

The people are watching to see when the Speaker will put this motion on the agenda. They are also watching to see if there will be much fighting. Many people wonder when this motion will be debated. When asked about this, many senior military officials have answered: the person who submitted this motion was probably a Vietnamese. The Thai military is fighting to defend the sovereignty and independence of the nation. But instead of being praised, the military is being criticized. Politicians whom Vietnam are using as a "fifth-column" are trying to make an issue of a non-issue. If this continues, it will be necessary to investigate the backgrounds of these politicians and expose them to the people. Is this right? This is what the "Bigs" are saying.

Such statements by senior military officers carry much weight among the people. Soldiers, policemen, and government officials tend to agree. As a result, the people are looking at those politicians who have submitted this motion and wonder what they are up to. They wonder whether the fact that soldiers have been sent to fight and die is the fault of the minister of defense. In combat, anyone who is shot or steps on a mine may very well be killed. But the politicians are not fighting in this battle. Instead, they are fighting a war of words and have lost the respect of the people.

Besides this, there have been reports that the military has not lobbied to have the opposition withdraw this motion. They want this motion to come before parliament. Because if there is a debate on this motion, they are sure that the opposition will be defeated just as in the past. Thus, those who signed this motion are now in the position of a person who has a bone stuck in his

throat. They can't swallow it, and they can't spit it out. They are frightened but can't even shout for help. Moreover, election time is approaching again. The people are bored. Politics in our country is very confusing. No one knows who is who. People don't know on whom to rely. They are suspicious of the opposition, because the military has said that these are "Vietnamese" who have been sent to destroy things here. Even though Thai soldiers are fighting and dying for their country, they have been accused of being impure.

In short, the image of the opposition, particularly the party of "Mr Pink," Samak Sunthonwet, has been tarnished badly. He was the one who spoke first, and his voice is not as loud as those who spoke second. The soldiers have dared to risk their lives, but that is not the case with the opposition. To draw another analogy, the opposition is like a man who has fallen into barbed wire. They have encountered many hardships. In the future, they will have little bite left. And in the end they will fly into the flame like a moth.

Columnist Questions Army Explanation

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 17-23 May 87 p 11

[Chat Outside Parliament column by Chatawa Klinsunthon]

[Text] "The appearance of Vietnamese forces in Thai territory does not provide clear evidence that they have violated international law or the UN Charter. But this is still a violation of Thailand's sovereignty and integrity. Vietnam violated international law and the UN Charter when it sent 140,000 troops to seize control of Cambodia, which it has occupied ever since 1979. ASEAN has condemned Vietnam for invading Thailand and demanded that Vietnam withdraw its forces from Thailand immediately," said the Singaporean minister of foreign affairs, Mr S. Dhanabalan, in his capacity as the chairman of the ASEAN Committee.

This was an attempt on the part of ASEAN. And it was an attempt by the Thai government to implement its foreign policy with respect to the problems that we face along the Cambodian border. Vietnam has seized control of territory here. These efforts were in addition to the military effort to expel the Vietnamese and defend our territorial sovereignty.

There has been continuous fighting between Vietnamese troops and our brave troops. Besides the losses suffered in combat, this has tarnished our image and ruined the investment and tourist climate in Thailand, and this has affected the morale of the Thai people.

Reports about the fighting along the Thai-Cambodian border between the Thai and Vietnamese forces usually reach foreigners abroad very quickly. But Thai who are not very interested in following the news know very little about this. The reports printed by the Thai newspapers are very limited. Their stories are based on the data provided by the military. What is worth noting is that the stories reaching people elsewhere in the world are very detailed.

As a member of the Thai mass media, I am quite willing to do my job, or present the news, based on what is good for the country. I am aware of the fact that I am a Thai. But even so, I am concerned about truth and fairness.

For those who follow the news, it seems as if our neighbors follow things here very closely. Even the trip to China by the RTA CINC, which may or may not have concerned the border situation, was reported in foreign newspapers.

Actually, we know that the terrain in the Chong Bok area in Ubon Ratchathani Province facilitates an incursion by foreign forces while making it difficult for our forces to retake the area. Thus, because we have launched a major operation, we have suffered heavy casualties. The army has stated this on various occasions. If you compute the casualties and the money spent in the struggle along the border, the figures for Chong Bok, which is the area of responsibility of the 2d Army Area, will be greater than those for other points both now and in the past.

The army should know which points are dangerous and which points are weak, or sensitive, spots. There should be a resolute commander or highly efficient force in place to retaliate against the Vietnamese. I am speaking like a nationalist and Thai who does not want to see us at a disadvantage or see us suffer losses.

As for what has happened at Chong Bok, which is the area of responsibility of the 2d Army Area, it is generally known that we have suffered heavy casualties. But no one knows for sure exactly how many casualties. Reporters have observed that Thailand has concealed the number of casualties. Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC, said that "there has not been any attempt to conceal things. The insurance companies that provide life insurance for soldiers have revealed the number of soldiers wounded and killed."

Mr Samak Sunthonwet, the leader of the Prachakon Thai Party has submitted an urgent motion in parliament on the situation at Chong Bok. But it has not yet been placed on the agenda. "I was surprised that the motion contained a few mistakes. When the Speaker of the House asked me to correct these, I did so. I also submitted an attachment. But the Speaker said that this was still not in order and that it would have to be signed again. I was surprised and wondered why this was the case," said the leader of the Prachakon Thai Party.

Actually, this matter should be reviewed and discussed to determine whether it should be kept secret. I have to say this even though I would like the military to respond to the motion. Because I, too, would like to know. But if it is a secret and if it is something that can affect the morale of the troops and people in general, then disclosing this should be discussed carefully. As I said above, if this would affect the investment atmosphere and the creation of jobs or if it would affect solving the economic problems or the implementation of the government's policy on the Visit Thailand Year, an exception should be made. But if this is something that can be disclosed to the public, then it should be disclosed. The people should be informed.

This would strengthen patriotism and nationalism during this period of trouble. Because it isn't only soldiers who love their country and who are

willing to make sacrifices for the country. The rest of us who live here are just as patriotic. Let's play by the rules.

Editorial Faults Army Explanation

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 19 May 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Parliament and the Military"]

[Excerpts] The motion filed by Prachakon Thai Party MPs to have the minister of defense explain the situation and facts concerning the fighting at Chong Bok along the Thai-Cambodian border has drawn an immediate response from senior army officers, who have said that what these MPs have done is inappropriate and that this is tantamount to meddling in military affairs unnecessarily.

Actually, the MPs acted in accord with Articles 135 and 136 of the constitution, which stipulate that senators and MPs have the right to supervise national administration by questioning ministers about their work. If MPs do not carry out their duties in accord with the powers stipulated in the constitution in a responsible and straightforward manner, how can they carry out their role in supervising national administration?

The fact that certain senior military officers have expressed dissatisfaction about the action taken by MPs shows that they do not understand the constitution. This can be construed to mean that these officers lack respect for parliament even though, in reality, parliament is the legislative branch while the military is just one of the organizations within the administrative branch.

The fact that these MPs have submitted this motion concerning the situation at Chong Bok shows that they are concerned about the military and the nation's sovereignty. But if the Ministry of Defense feels that it would be inappropriate to debate this publicly, it should rely on the cabinet resolution to clear up things and reach an understanding with MPs. The fact that certain senior military officers have expressed their views on this is probably an expression of the views of soldiers in the field. But if these officers understand the constitution and remember their military discipline, they should make their views known through the chain of command instead of speaking out freely as if the minister of defense and parliament have no meaning. By doing this, they are just creating problems unnecessarily.

Columnist Faults PAVN, Supports Opposition Doubts

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 21 May 87 p 5

[Ta Mo Lo column: "The Military and the Cambodian Situation"]

[Excerpts] I think that we should calm down and talk to each other. I am referring to the opposition's motion about the military situation along the Cambodian border. It seems that Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC, is angry and that he feels that the opposition has criticized his subordinates. I

do not think that the opposition submitted this motion in order to criticize anyone. The opposition probably did this out of concern.

I view the fighting along the Thai-Cambodian border through the eyes of a civilian. This fighting has been going on for a long time, and the fighting will continue as long as Vietnam continues to occupy Cambodia.

Vietnam sent forces across the border into Thailand in order to aggravate the conflict with Thailand. Thailand grew tired of this and pursued the Vietnamese soldiers across the border into Cambodia. At that time, Vietnam claimed that Thailand had invaded Cambodia or occupied Cambodian territory. They used the fact that we had crossed the border as an excuse to strengthen their hold on Cambodia.

Today, Vietnam constantly prays that Thailand will send forces into Cambodia, but Thailand has not done so. If Thailand should send forces into Cambodia, Vietnam would celebrate for 3 days. Thus, Vietnam frequently sends troops into Thailand in order to tempt Thailand to attack them. When Thailand refuses to attack, they fire artillery in order to induce us to retaliate. If Thailand fails to respond, they will step up their incursions and stir up more and more trouble. Thus, Thailand must take steps to ensure that Vietnam does not set up bases here or keep its forces here too long. Such fighting is very tiresome, because there is no end in sight.

However, in this fighting, lives are at stake. Lives are very precious. Thus, I would like to see us win. At the same time, I hope that none of our soldiers are killed. I hope that our losses are as small as possible.

I feel that the Thai-Cambodian border is a special battlefield. That is, this is fighting in which no one seems to want to win a decisive victory. This is protracted fighting. No one knows how many years this will continue. At the same time, the enemy must be prevented from occupying the area for too long. That would give the enemy a strategic, tactical, and political advantage. If we have the advantage, we should fight. If we are at a disadvantage, we should hold back until we have the advantage. We should not commit troops unnecessarily. There is no need to rush in troops. In a protracted fight like this, the important thing is to save the lives of the troops. Commanders must fight wisely and not risk the lives of their troops unnecessarily.

The fact that MPs, even if they are members of the opposition, are talking about the military shows that they recognize the value of the military and that they are concerned. Even though their way of expressing themselves may be somewhat irritating, this does, nevertheless, show that they are concerned.

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CSO: 4207/224

ARMY REACTS TO BORDER WAR CRITICISM; WEAKNESSES NOTED

Enlisted Man Comments, Chawalit Buys Dinner

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 19 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] At 1730 hours on 18 May at the King Monkut's Hospital, Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC, and a group of senior officers arrived to visit the soldiers who had been wounded during field operations. Gen Chawalit gave each of the 181 wounded soldiers 500 baht and treated them to dinner.

Besides this, Gen Cahwalit ordered Lt Gen Singha Saowaphak, the director of the King Monkut's Medical Center, to repair the air conditioner, because the recovery ward was too hot. He ordered him to send him a report as soon as possible.

Lt Gen Singha told reporters that 137 soldiers wounded in the fighting at Chong Bok in Nam Yun district, Unbon Ratchathani Province, have been treated at the King Monkut's Hospital. The wounded began arriving at the hospital in December 1986. Some have recovered and been discharged. Today, only 113 remain hospitalized. Wounded soldiers have also been sent to the Ubon Ratchathani provincial hospital for treatment, but he does not know the exact number.

Reporters also took this opportunity to talk with some of the wounded soldiers about the situation at Chong Bok and the action taken by the opposition parties, which submitted an urgent motion to the House of Representatives. Sergeant Anan Kaenko, who is attached to the 3d Battalion, 23d Infantry Regiment, and who was wounded in the left eye by a piece of shrapnel, said that the reason why the Thai forces have suffered so many casualties this time is that we allowed Vietnamese forces to cross the border and hold Thai territory for too long. The Vietnamese troops have planted a large number of mines. Besides this, it is very difficult to conduct operations in the terrain here, and our troops frequently come under attack. The 2d Army Region has had to send in reinforcements. He said that recently, an officer questioned him on the situation there and asked for his views on how to conduct operations. He told him that Thai forces do not have a fortified base. When the enemy fires at our forces, we suffer heavy casualties. Besides this, we do not have enough mine sweepers and so it is difficult to conduct operations. The Chong Bok area is a very mountainous area. Thus, logistics is a problem.

Sergeant Anan said that the Vietnamese soldiers use scarves of Thai soldiers to trick Thai soldiers into entering Vietnamese-controlled areas. They speak the Lao language and use the scarves to signal the Thai soldiers to come forward. They yell, "we have already taken the hill." When the Thai soldiers move forward, they are fired on. Many soldiers have been lost this way.

Sergeant Anan spoke about MPs submitting a motion on the situation at Chong Bok. He said that if the MPs had gone and seen things for themselves, they probably wouldn't have done this. Great sacrifices have been made. If the MPs go there, they will know what the situation is like. The soldiers have a duty to perform, and the MPs should be sympathetic.

Chawalit Defends Army Performance

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 20 May 87 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] At 0930 hours on 19 May at the army auditorium, Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC, was interviewed about a statement made by Sergeant Anan Chaemko, who is attached to the 3d Battalion, 23d Infantry Regiment, Suratham Phithak Camp, Nakhon Ratchasima Province. Sergeant Anan mentioned the scarves worn by soldiers that identify their unit and platoon. The Vietnamese troops remove these scarves from dead Thai soldiers and then put them on in order to get near Thai soldiers. We have suffered casualties as a result of this weakness.

Gen Chawalit said that this has been the experience of those operating in the field. Sergeant Anan has pointed out a shortcoming that needs to be corrected. That is, the Vietnamese remove these scarves from Thai soldiers and then use them to signal to Thai soldiers, who think that they are friendly forces. This is because there is no frontline there. But it should be understood that we do not wear these scarves for decoration. Soldiers use these in difficult situations, such as when they have been shot and need to stop the bleeding. If the enemy is using these to their advantage, something must be done to solve this problem. This is a matter for the units to handle. He said that he had not been aware of this.

The reporter said that besides the matter of the scarves, Sergeant Anan also talked about the shortage of mine sweepers and the issue of bunkers. The RTA CINC said that what Sergeant Anan said is correct. The enemy has built strong positions. Even though we are using ground-piercing ammunition, the mines that they have planted still pose a great problem. We must struggle against this. The infantry has to enter those areas. We must try to reduce our casualties and gain the advantage. Officials are already making a great effort.

Gen Chawalit also said that many times, he would rather not answer certain questions. But if he refuses to answer, people will accuse him of concealing things. But answering these questions puts those in the field at a disadvantage and results in losses. He asked people to understand this. He said that just talking to each other with good intentions doesn't mean that there won't be problems.

Reporters then went and talked with Sergeant Anan, who is recovering at the King Monkut's Hospital. Sergeant Anan is proud that his superiors have listened to his ideas. He said that the most important thing right now is that Vietnam is waging a war of nerves in order to frighten us. They try to harass us. Sometimes, we see them, but we can't fire. Because if we fire and miss, we will die. Usually, we don't use firing methods. Also, they know us, but we don't know them. This is the blind spot.

The reporters asked how many Vietnamese soldiers are in the area. Sergeant Anan said that there are many there. We have allowed them to stay there for too long. They have built almost permanent bases there. But we will be able to expel them if we don't run into obstacles and more blind spots.

Sergeant Anan fought at Chong Bok in Nam Yun District, Ubon Ratchathani Province, and was wounded in the left eye, left shoulder, and left hand. He once received a commendation from Gen Athit Kamlangek, the former RTA CINC, for his actions in helping to seize Hill 361 in Sangkha District, Surin Province. He said that he has seen much combat but never any as fierce as this. But he has confidence in the capabilities of our forces and will return to duty if he is able.

Air Chief Marshal Phaniang Kantarat, the minister of defense, said that he is prepared to respond to the motion filed by opposition MPs concerning the situation at Chong Bok. He said that he went to observe the situation at Chong Bok yesterday in preparation for answering the questions of MPs.

The minister of defense said that as for the situation at Chong Bok, at present, officials from several sectors are providing help. This includes both the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defense. He said that even though a large number of our soldiers have been killed, the number is not too large. In combat, there will always be casualties. At present, the army is in good control of the situation.

General Criticizes Reporting

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 22 May 87 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed report: "Soldiers Criticize Reporting, Say That We Can Control Chong Bok"]

[Excerpt] At 1000 hours on 21 May 1987 at Supreme Command Headquarters, Lt Gen Wichit Bunyawat, the director of the Information Office, Supreme Command Headquarters, issued a joint statement together with representatives of the three branches of service and the Commissioner's Office of the Border Patrol Police on the general situation. He began by issuing an appeal to the mass media about their reporting of the fight to expel the Vietnamese troops at Chong Bok. He said that certain weekly newspapers have printed stories that have given information to the enemy about our military operations and about our weaknesses even though the operations were still underway. This has had negative consequences for us, that is, soldiers have been killed, and placed us at a disadvantage. Thus, he appealed to them to stop this in view of the fact that this benefits the enemy.

Lt Gen Wichit also talked about the present situation along the Thai-Cambodian border. He said that besides carrying on operations in accord with Plan K5, Vietnam has also sent troops and weapons to the Thai-Cambodian border in Surin Province. As for the tri-border area at Chong Bok in Nam Yun District, Vietnam continues to move up troops to support the invasion of Thailand by elements of its 315th Division. This is a clear violation of Thailand's sovereignty. We have sent forces to expel them and have achieved results. We have destroyed many important targets within the combat zone even though we have faced heavy resistance from enemy forces using a variety of weapons and suffered losses. At present, we are working to build a secure border. We are in control of Chong Bok and other important areas. We have sent reconnaissance teams on missions throughout the area in order to expel all Vietnamese forces. At present, there is still heavy fighting. The enemy is trying to maintain its hold on Thai territory and prevent us from retaking this territory.

The director of the Information Office also disclosed that the enemy is still firing artillery shells into Thai territory. Their artillery has killed Thai citizens and destroyed their property. But we have taken steps to prevent losses. For example, shelters and bunkers have been built in the villages. Even though the situation is still unsettled, the morale of the Thai people is very good. They are ready to cooperate with officials in the struggle against the invaders.

Draftee Comments on Desertions

Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai 20-26 May 87 p 4

[Letters column: "Voice from Chong Bok"]

[Text] 3 May 1987

To: The Editor of KHAO PHISSET

I am writing this letter in red ink to symbolize blood and resentment. I am a draftee and was sent to fight the Vietnamese at Chong Bok, where the fighting continues. If I had not been drafted, I would not have joined the army. I am the son of a farmer who grows glutinous rice. I am not the son of a Chink or rich financier who is able to avoid the draft. About 40 soldiers have been killed this time. But this has been concealed. But many "clever" soldiers have deserted. People have deserted from the Nam Phung Camp. Several people have been put in the stockade. My friends and I are not professional soldiers and yet we have had to engage in hand-to-hand combat with the Vietnamese. Several of my friends have been bayoneted to death. Their bodies were cremated at Wat Saphadam in Sakon Nakhon. The fighting has been very heavy. But some people have deserted. If they had not deserted but stayed and helped fight the Vietnamese, I am sure that more Vietnamese would have been killed.

But they fled. The Vietnamese have been able to retrieve their dead. But instead of helping us fight, these people deserted. I harbor great resentment against these deserters. Also, there are many officers who talk well but who don't know anything about fighting. They claim to love the country.... I am

sure that the Vietnamese would have been afraid of someone like Col Prachak. I do not harbor any resentment against the Vietnamese. Rather, I feel resentment against some of my fellow Thai. I hate those who just talk and boast. I, too, am thinking of deserting. If a draftee flees into the Phu Phan jungle, it's unlikely that anyone will dare go after him.

Sincerely,

A Draftee, a Scum

Sakon Nakhon and Kalasin

Army Sources: Casualties Higher Than Admitted

Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 20-26 May 87 pp 12-14

[Excerpt] Smoke From the 2d Army Region; Chong Bok, Isaraphong's Bad Dream

The operation at Chong Bok, a hellish area, will probably continue to cast a pall over things. What is bothering people the most is the casualties. Gen Chawalit and many other senior officers become irritated whenever someone mentions or asks about this. The army has said that 45 soldiers have been killed. But this figure conflicts with other reports coming from the 2d Army Region. Most of the reports say that the actual figure is much higher.

At the same time, one MP from Ubon Ratchathani told KHAO PHISET that he is trying to check the rumors that the "army sent almost 200 Pa Wai paratroopers, or 'red-helmeted soldiers,' into battle and that almost all of them were killed." Because if this is true, it was a terrible mistake.

"I know that some battalion commanders of the rank of lieutenant colonel have been killed in this operation. But no reports have been issued. I will follow this matter. Because if our side has made mistakes, perhaps we can help find a way to reduce the number of casualties. This is very important. It is better than sitting around and saying that this and that person is a Vietnamese," said this MP.

A news source in the 2d Army Region told KHAO PHISET that it must be admitted that we have suffered heavy casualties in the Chong Bok fighting. Besides senior people in the army, the 2d Army Region commander, that is, Lt Gen Isaraphong Nunphakdi, is very upset about this. Because if we suffer heavy casualties, that will affect the prestige of the senior officer here, that is, the army region commander, and reflect poorly on his skills.

Lt Gen Isaraphong is a key member of CRMA [Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy] Class 5. He is one of three Class 5 members who have reached the rank of lieutenant general. Lt Gen Isaraphong has served most of his career with urban military units. Before being appointed deputy commander of the 2d Army Region in October 1985 and commander in October 1986, he served as the commander of the 1st King's Guard Division, which opposed the 9 September 1985 rebellion.

There have been reports and certain groups of soldiers have tried to spread rumors to the effect that his assignment to the 2d Army Region displeased CRMA Class 5 and made them "unhappy." They felt that he should have been appointed 1st Army Region commander, which would have enabled him to "show his form" better. Today, the events at Chong Bok are testing the skills of Lt Gen Isaraphong. This is a strong storm through which he must pass.

Conclusion: Chong Bok Has Been a "Lesson"

Even after Samak Sunthonwet submits his urgent motion in parliament on 21 May, Chong Bok will probably continue to be a bloody battlefield. Thailand must expel the invaders in order to preserve its sovereignty. However, a news report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed KHAO PHISET that a problem that is just as important as the fighting is the "map" issue, which is similar to the argument that Thailand is having with Laos over the three villages. That is, in the Chong Bok area, there are at least three hills that the Heng Samrin faction, with the support of Vietnam, claims belong to Cambodia. Thailand claims that they belong to Thailand.

Thus, the issue involves "maps." Thailand uses maps prepared by the United States while the Heng Samrin faction uses maps prepared by the French. These two sets of maps differ on various points. Thus, until this issue is resolved, there will continue to be conflicts. And as everyone knows, such problems are very difficult to solve. Just look at the problem involving the three villages. We have still not been able to reach an agreement.

Thus, the Chong Bok issue is filled with lessons, and there are a variety of conclusions to which Thailand can come in order to solve the problem. All factions will have to be very broadminded in order to draw the right conclusions from these lessons.

Suranari Task Force Officer, Others Comment

Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 20-26 May 87 pp 14-17

[Unattributed report: "Repercussions From Chong Bok: Statements by Soldiers From the Battlefield"]

[Text] Many people are probably interested in what is happening at Chong Bok. KHAO PHISET has published several articles on this. We feel obligated to present as many of the facts as possible. Thus, in addition to the initial report published above, we will now turn to statements made by brave soldiers at both the planning and field levels. As for those who have seen action in the field, KHAO PHISET had a chance to talk with people when Lt Gen Prasoet Sanrut and Maj Gen Montri Thipphayawathi, the adjutant general and deputy adjutant general respectively, went to give 200 baht to each of the 179 soldiers wounded in battle at Chong Bok and along the border on behalf of Gen Athit Kamlangek, the former supreme commander.

Col Phoemsak Wongsarot, the Chief of Staff of the Suranari Force

At the army auditorium on 14 May 1987, at a ceremony presided over by Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, the assistant RTA CINC, to bestow insignia of rank and flying decorations on army air cadets, Col Phoemsak Wongsarot, the chief of staff of the Suranari Force, was awarded a decoration, too. After the ceremony, reporters showed him the issue of KHAO PHISSET with the cover headline "Secret Documents From Chong Bok, the Most Expensive Lesson in the History of Combat" and then asked him about what has happened there. Col Phoemsak explained things as follows:

Everything Possible Is Being Done To Preserve Democracy

We began by sending infantry to help expel them. The initial force consisted of only three companies of thahan phran irregulars. But because the fighting continued to drag on, we had to change the plan, that is, we committed all the combat forces available to us in order to achieve the objective in accord with the policy of the RTA CINC, who wanted to expel the Vietnamese as quickly as possible. Because this was the policy, the Suranari Force, or 2d Army Region, had to take quick action. We have tried to use the minimum force necessary.

It must be admitted that the jungle terrain in the Chong Bok area is very difficult terrain. The terrain hinders operations. Just getting to the area is difficult. We are now experiencing two major problems. One is that the enemy is using artillery set up across the border. The other is the difficulty of the terrain. The enemy has planted many mines. They planted these mines a long time ago to block us. They have the advantage over us, because they have been in the area for a long time. They have been operating in this area for a long time. Our forces have not operated in their territory. We have always kept our forces on our side of the border. That is, we have adhered to international law. But Vietnam, which is now occupying Cambodia, has ignored international law. However, only a small force has crossed into Thailand.

As for the hills that have been in the news, I want to say that we can reach all the hills that have been in our hands. But we can't get to those that they have occupied, because they have set up fields of fire. Whenever we try to carry on operations, they deploy small forces and use their firepower to destroy us. As a result, we have suffered casualties. This has forced us to change our tactics. We will no longer operate as large units. Instead, we will use small teams in an effort to seize the hills. From now on, we won't consider how many people might be lost in an operation. Our only thought is to do everything necessary to maintain our sovereignty.

In Combat, There Will Be Casualties; the Enemy Has Suffered Heavier Casualties

We consider a military combat operation to be an ordinary matter. In combat, there will always be casualties. The reports that have appeared are not in accord with the facts. Commanders at all levels in the 2d Army Region are at the front. It's just that they don't stay there all the time. The army region commander has visited every base and tried to rotate the senior officers. Everyone is prepared to fight side by side with his subordinates. We are continuing in this manner. We have not tried to twist the facts or conceal the

losses. It must be admitted that there will be casualties. But if we suffer fewer casualties than the enemy, we view that as a victory. I can attest to the fact that the enemy's casualties have been heavier than ours. We have learned this from questioning soldiers and so on. But I don't think that it would be good for us to count bodies. That is not our nature. The Vietnamese soldiers who have surrendered or who have been captured have clearly stated that they knew that they were in Thailand and that they had been ordered to cross the border into Thailand. This shows that intended to violate our sovereignty.

In this fighting, the decision as to whether to use large or small forces depends on the situation and the enemy. Thus, the fact that we used large forces and suffered heavy casualties does not mean that we suffered a defeat. The fact that we have now turned to using small units does not mean that we suffered a defeat. The tactics used depend on the situation and on what the enemy is doing.

Explanation of the Events of 14 May, Correction of KHAO PHISSET Report

(Reporter) What about the reports that there have been command problems and fighting between our own units.

(Answer) Those reports are not true. We have worked together. Thahan phran irregulars took Hill 500 together.

(Reporter) KHAO PHISSET reported that at 0655 hours on 14 April, thahan phran irregulars seized the hill. But the infantry units that were supposed to provide support failed to do so. As a result 60-70 men were trapped.

(Answer) That's not true. What happened was this. This was a three-pronged attack. In the rear, the Vietnamese were not prepared and so we were able to launch a surprise attack. We sent in main-force troops from the front. But they ran into a mine field and suffered heavy casualties. The timing was disrupted. That is, the one group was ready. But the others weren't. This was supposed to be a three-pronged attack. But only one group was ready. And the one that was ready was just a small unit. The men had to cross two hills. If we could have, we would have sent the main-force units in from the north and south. But they had positioned forces to intercept us in those directions. They had mine fields there. And so we couldn't reach the objective. The enemy, who was operating close to the border, was able to send in reinforcements to put pressure on us from the rear. Because of this pressure, our small forces had to withdraw. When the others learned that they had withdrawn, they had to turn back, too. That's all. It's not true that one group did not provide support. They went together.

And it was not just thahan phran irregulars who advanced. Main-force elements were involved, too. That is, our attack teams in the rear were composed of both main-force elements and thahan phran irregulars. However, most of the main forces were sent in from the two frontal directions. Stated simply, the main-force units approached from the front. It's not true that they didn't move forward. They went into mine fields and so their advance was slowed. At the same time, the attack from the rear got underway. As a result, there was a

lack of coordination. Things did not go according to plan. That is, we launched a coordinated attack. But some elements encountered opposition and were not able to reach their objectives on time. We did not secure our rear. This is the first time that we have been cut off from the rear. But we managed to take our objective. When we reached there, a thahan phran irregular ran up and tossed a grenade at the enemy troops. Three or four of them were killed. We lost one man, the one who threw the grenade. We succeeded in taking the hill from the rear.

At 0800 the next morning, I watched things through binoculars. They were very tricky. We felt very happy that we had seized the hill. They tried to tempt us into their line of fire. That is, they emplaced small forces in various positions. They tried to tempt us into taking the hills. When we tried to advance, they immediately mobilized fire from seven or eight bases along the border. This is one of the lessons that we have learned. We have changed our tactics.

MPs Aren't As Well Informed As Soldiers, Fewer Than 100 Have Died

(Reporter) KHAO PHISSET has printed stories to the effect that the Suranari Force has been careless and that it has not studied the terrain in detail before launching an operation.

(Answer) How much time should be spent studying things? That is my question. We didn't start just recently. I have been involved in making plans for a year now. This is the second year. I am responsible for making plans.

(Reporter) Recently, there have been reports that after the D-9 operation was launched, there were so many casualties that troop morale began to suffer. As a result, MPs will submit questions in parliament.

(Answer) You can write that MPs can't possibly be as well informed as soldiers about what is happening. Go and ask the wounded soldiers how their morale is. Ask soldiers whether they are prepared to go fight again and whether they want to get revenge for their friends. Those who haven't been in combat can't understand. Every soldier is afraid at first. But after he has been in combat for a few days, he loses his fear. After he has seen friends wounded and killed, his only thought is to get revenge. They lose about 10 for every one of ours. If one of our soldiers is wounded, thahan phran irregulars immediately go out on an operation.

(Reporter) Actually, the losses should be disclosed. Otherwise, no one is clear about the real number. People say that hundreds have been killed.

(Answer) That's incorrect. I can confirm that we haven't suffered that many killed. Fewer than 100 have died. The enemy uses heavy weapons and so people are frequently wounded by shrapnel. Fewer than 10 people have been killed by small-arms fire. Most of our operations are conducted in jungle terrain. They establish fire points. When our troops enter these areas, they fire artillery and mortars at those points. This is how we have suffered most of our losses. We have suffered fewer than 100 killed. That many may have been wounded.

(Reporter) You can't expect to conceal things in such an operation.

(Answer) You have to understand the nature of the fighting. They are using small operations teams. They are using guerrilla methods like the communist terrorists in the past. If we are at this point, they stir up trouble somewhere else. They are not carrying on battalion- or company-strength operations. We would like to send in a battalion to put an end to the matter. But when we attack at one point, they disappear and turn up somewhere else. They are using harassing tactics.

As for the D-9 Operation, we will switch to D 11, 12, and 13. We can do this. However, our foremost objective is to expel these forces. We cannot allow them to remain in this area, because this is Thai territory. No matter how long it takes and no matter how many casualties we suffer, we have to expel them from this area.

We Are at a Disadvantage

Originally, we were able to control all the hills. In some areas, we come under mortar fire. Thus, we avoid these dangerous areas. We advance on targets that we can control. There are several areas involved. The enemy has the advantage over us. They can use vehicles from across the border. But for us, the road to Chong Bok is blocked. There is only one road. Along the border here is a mountain range about 8 km long. There was one road through the Chong Bok area. They already have roads. After they came into this area, they built roads in their area. You have to know the terrain here. It's not that the foot of the hill belongs to them and the peak belongs to us. Today, they have the advantage in that the hill tops belong to them. They belong to them and to Cambodia. Thus, they have roads and use vehicles. They have to walk only 300 meters to reach their objectives. But we have to move 7 km. This puts us at a great disadvantage. But we don't have to talk about using armor here. The area is not suited to the use of armor. Neither side can use armor here.

The 2d Army Region Commander Has Combat Experience; Conclusion, There Is Nothing To Worry About

The senior people in the army are aware of what we are doing here. We are taking action on our own. We have to be very careful about committing troops to battle and exposing them to danger. We have considered things very carefully. In particular, the 2d Army Region commander, Lt Gen Isaraphong Nunphakdi, has combat experience. The use of forces depends on the enemy. It depends on what they plan to do. We have not suffered heavy casualties. But we are not being dogmatic. We are making changes. We are gradually making progress. It takes time. We can't end the fighting in 1 day or send in large forces to expel them. That would be careless. We are constantly modifying our plans. We know what our weaknesses are. We are correcting our shortcomings so that we can destroy the enemy.

From what we have seen, they do not seem to be intent on seizing permanent control of the area. They have dug ordinary foxholes. But it is difficult to dislodge them, because these are individual foxholes. When our forces approach their position, they throw grenades from their foxholes. We have not tried to

seize these points, because there does not seem to be much use in doing so. If we move into one area, they move to another area. That would just increase our losses. But we have to do something to keep them out of other areas. We know where they are and so we don't approach those points. But if they try to move into other areas, there is a clash. Because we are engaging them in this manner, it is impossible to say how long the fighting will last. But we don't have to commit many forces. At present, we are using small forces.

Here, I would like to say that there is no cause for alarm. If we suffer heavy losses or make a major mistake, all we have to do is change our combat tactics.

Captain Comments on Tactics

Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai 20-26 May 87 p 15

[Comment by Cpt Puranit Bunyamanop, age 29, a company commander with the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment]

I was ordered to take a force to drive the Vietnamese off Hill 382. I used elements of my company to form Special Action Unit 6034. My right arm was hit by a piece of shrapnel and broken. Many of my men were wounded and several were killed.

I really don't want to say much about what happened that day. It was very bad. I led my men there about 1100 hours. We were about 300-400 meters from the Vietnamese. We did not know that the Vietnamese would lay down heavy fire before they retreated. I and my men thought that they had all left and so we moved forward to clear the area in order to set up our base. But we came under fire and could not determine their positions. All we saw were the incoming shells. When we came under attack, there wasn't time see what was happening. Everyone started firing and mines exploded.

If we could defeat them easily, we would probably have sent in reinforcements a long time ago. Now, we can hardly get near them. Only a few elements have broken through. But those that have gotten near them haven't been able to hold their position because reinforcements have not been sent up. Thus, we are now engaged in a prolonged fight.

As for who has the advantage, I think that they enjoy the advantage, because the hills are very high and so they have a clear view of us. They can fire at us at any time before we know what is happening. But in terms of courage, I think that our troops are much braver than the Vietnamese troops. There is a great difference. But I don't know whether we will win. The situation is very difficult. I have heard that they have sent in reinforcements in order to frighten us. But actually, there are probably just small elements left. I think that we will win eventually. I pray that I am right about this.

Officer: 'Vietnamese Better Than We Are'

Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 20-26 May 87 p 16

[Comment by Cpt Chamnan Suwanchawi, age 31, a deputy company commander with the 3d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment]

[Text] I led a company to the top of Hill 376. This was known as the Thong Kaeo Special Action Company. We had been in the area for 2 days when I saw Vietnamese soldiers operating there. I was surprised, because before we arrived, thahan phran irregulars had cleared the area. I told my men not to fire at the Vietnamese because that would give away our position.

Frankly, we did not know whether we were surrounded or not. We found out later when we saw four Vietnamese soldiers walking in the open about 15 meters from our position in an attempt to get us to fire at them so that they could discover our position. Fortunately, none of my men fired. The next morning, that is, on 15 or 16 May, I divided my men into three teams and sent them to find water. One of the teams used a dog to lead the way to prevent the men from stepping on a mine. A short time later, I heard a loud explosion on the left side of the hill. I ordered one of the remaining operations teams to go see what had happened. Just after they left, I heard a lot of firing. I was sure that they were engaged in a fire fight. I took the other team to go help. I couldn't bear to see my men being killed without trying to help them.

But before I could reach the spot, men from the first team began returning. I was surprised and ordered my men to hurry and take cover. Then I heard sounds coming from behind a large tree behind me. I thought it sounded like mortars and recoilless rifles. My men were running here and there.

I tried to find out where the firing was coming from. I used a compass and ordered my men to radio for artillery support to knock out the mortars. After receiving confirmation, I was hit by shrapnel from a recoilless rifle round. I was wounded in the left arm, as was one of my men near me. If I had not been wearing a flack jacket, I would probably have been killed.

I have to admit that the enemy troops are better and more experienced than us. It's difficult to conduct operations here, because it is difficult to maneuver in this kind of terrain. But if we are brave and aren't afraid to fight for our objectives, we will win. We have to be brave. But from what I have seen, I think that we are afraid to take risks and so we are at a disadvantage.

11943

CSO: 4207/225

THAILAND

OPINION MAKERS CONTINUE ATTACKS AGAINST COPYRIGHT LAW

Foreign Minister: U.S. Bullies Thailand

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 27 May 87 pp 1, 16

[Excerpts] Mr Michai Wirawaithaya, the spokesman attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, said that before taking up the agenda of the 26 May cabinet meeting, Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, distributed copies of a telegram received from Mr Asa Sarasin, the Thai ambassador to the United States, to the cabinet members present.

Mr Michai said that Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, the minister of foreign affairs, told those at the meeting that before coming to the cabinet meeting, he had talked with reporters about this matter. He is now waiting for Mr Asa to return and provide him with the latest information on the situation in the United States and on the views of various interest groups there and to give him his views on what should be done.

A reporter asked why no details have been provided on the cabinet's resolution to allow the copyright law to be revised. Mr Michai said that this matter must be studied further by the political parties. The day that the cabinet passed this resolution, he received an order to make only a very short statement about this. The statement that he was given was only seven lines long. He expanded this to 13 lines. This is because this has not been studied by the coordinating committee or the political parties. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is ready to explain the matter to each of the political parties.

Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, the minister of defense, said that he has ordered the Minister of Defense to compile information in simple, understandable language for distribution to the people and the mass media. Mr Asa Sarasin, the Thai ambassador to the United States, will return to Thailand on 1 or 2 June. Next week, he will give a report on television. Mr Phachon Isarasanao, the under secretary of foreign affairs, and Mr Danai Dulalampha, the director-general of the Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will make statements, too.

Air Chief Marshal Sitthi said that Thailand has enjoyed the GSP [General System of Preferences] for more than 10 years. There have been problems concerning the copyright law since 1978. Thailand has been a member along with

76 other countries. The United States is taking measures against Thailand because the U.S. economy is presently in trouble. He said that he has reduced the problem greatly. Examples are the Farm Act and the Jenkins Bill. In 1985, the ministries of commerce and foreign affairs negotiated with the United States, which made six demands, claiming that there should be free and fair trade. They made demands concerning six things: the copyright law, the soybean problem, the trade law, patents, an agricultural tax, and so on. Thailand established a committee composed of representatives from seven-eight ministries to discuss these matters. It was agreed to give rights to the United States on three of the issues.

"It was felt that if we didn't give the United States anything, the GSP would be restricted. Because in 1985, Thailand's use of its GSP rights totaled \$245 million. And in 1986 this increased 49 percent to \$357 million, which is almost 10 billion baht. The committee gave away as little as it could. That is, it gave in to the United States on the copyright issue, which meant increasing the number and giving the United States the same rights as the 76 countries to which we had given rights. We also made concessions on the soybean problem by agreeing to change the tariff collection system and trademarks, said Air Chief Marshal Sitthi.

Air Chief Marshal Sitthi said that during the latest round of negotiations, in which Mr Danai and Mr Asa negotiated with American officials, our negotiators informed the United States about these three concessions and it was satisfied. But the United States is still asking for cigarette rights, which Thailand has refused to give. It has also asked for drug patents. Thailand claims that the Thai people are very poor and that this would have a great effect on them. But copyrights will be given. As for the problem of the Thai-U.S Treaty of Friendship, which states that Thailand must give copyrights to the United States, the period in which that treaty was made must be considered. We must consider whether this violates the constitution. He said that he did not want to comment on this treaty. But he confirmed that Thailand will make only the three concessions mentioned above. If we don't, the United States will cancel the remaining 8-1/2 years of the GSP granted to Thailand.

Air Chief Marshal Sitthi said that ASEAN has already revised the copyright law, and Thailand will be able to do this for the United States in 6 months. This will mean revising the law to give just one more country, the United States, copyrights. As for whether this will cover computer software, that is for a court, a Thai court, to decide.

Air Chief Marshal Sitthi said that if Thailand does not revise this law, it will lose benefits. The United States has canceled the GSP for Taiwan and Korea. Besides this, it would use Article 301 of the Trade Law to implement retaliatory tariffs. Thailand has already been slapped with such tariffs on steel pipe and tuna products. The U.S. government claims that this action was taken by the U.S. Congress. If Thailand revises the copyright law, this will give us a chance to expand our markets, because Taiwan and Korea have already had their rights cut. If Thailand's GSP rights are reduced, we won't be able to compete against other countries. There will be labor problems in the textile industry.

"If they become angry, they can make things difficult for us. Are we going to declare an economic war against them? We can do that. I won't say anything. And it won't be only the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that is involved. The matter has been discussed by the cabinet. Two changes were discussed. But I am responsible for this. As for the Friendship Treaty that we signed with the United States, will Thailand abide by the terms of the treaty? If we don't, we will be the one to lose. What happens then depends on whether this passes. But we can make changes to make things proper and protect our national interests," said Air Chief Marshal Sitthi.

A reporter asked about the fact that the American embassy stated that the GSP has nothing to do with revising the copyright law. Air Chief Marshal Sitthi said that they are related. The United States is using a new trade law to put pressure on Thailand. This will have a great effect.

"If we don't do this for the United States, they might demand damages equal to the value of the GSP rights that we have enjoyed. And markets for these goods are not easy to find. I am not a slave of the United States. Why wasn't anything said when I got into an argument with the United States on the Farm Act or the vote on the Libyan matter? I have always done things based on Thailand's policy. The United States has said that I seldom vote in their favor. The truth is, I am willing to give the United States only 70 percent."

The reporter asked about the attitude of the other government parties that oppose this. Air Chief Marshal Sitthi said that because we are all in the same boat, we must cooperate in maintaining the political agreements. He said that he didn't want to say any more about this. But he repeated that this is not an exchange. These are negotiations. It depends on whether or not Thailand wants a confrontation or trade war with the United States.

Editorial Backs Law with Reservation

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 25 May 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Think About National Interests"]

[Excerpts] Efforts are being made to revise the Copyright Act, a matter that is in the news these days, because people don't know the facts and because certain people who have been affected by the marketing of products protected by this law are trying to protect their trade interests. The Copyright Act is not being revised just in order to please the United States. By royal decree, this will be turned into a law that applies to countries that have bilateral relations with Thailand.

Actually, Thailand has been using the Copyright Act for many years without encountering any problems. But when the United States asked that copyright protection be expanded, many people voiced opposition and criticized this. This is because there are many goods that could affect the interests of domestic producers and distributors.

Textiles are Thailand's primary products on U.S. markets, because they earn the most money. The trade activities of most of these people could be

adversely affected if the government does not revise the Copyright Act so that things are fair for the countries that have bilateral relations with Thailand. Even though the Ministry of Commerce is trying to expand markets in other countries in order to avoid the effects, this is difficult, because the United States is a huge open market for many types of Thai goods, and Thai goods are well known.

Thus, now that the government has submitted the matter of revising the Copyright Act to parliament, MPs must consider this matter very carefully. They must obtain data and consider how this will affect people in general. They must not worry about the negative impact that this will have on a few people or think about what they stand to gain by opposing and blocking the revision of this act.

Columnist: U.S. is 'Spent Force' Economically

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 15 May 87 p 3

[Right Wing column by Masuk Suankhwanpin: "The Copyright Act, for Whose Benefit?"]

[Text] Many years ago, Thailand became a member of the Berne Convention on copyright protection. Many of the then underdeveloped or developing countries realized what this meant and refused to become members of this convention. One example is Japan. Japan copied everything it could. After its defeat in the world war, Japan knew that it had to make itself the equal of the Western countries. It developed some things on its own and copied others. Japan was not about to let the Westerners be the only ones to grow wealthy.

The Japanese translated textbooks, books on art, and literary works. They read and studied these books until they knew just as much as the Westerners. They then began developing things on their own using modern technology obtained from the West. Japan wrote textbooks on everything.

The Japanese government refused to abide by the agreements of the Western countries, which were already developed countries and which frequently exploited others. Japan refused because it was concerned about Japan and the Japanese people. It placed Japan's interests above all else.

Go and look. The countries that are members of the Berne Convention are mostly developed Western countries. The underdeveloped countries that are members are "slave" countries that had no other choice.

However, the United States, a huge country that has prospered from modern science, did not become a member of this convention. At that time, the United States did not have much sympathy for the underdeveloped countries, which is still true today. Another thing is that it wants to be "loved" and meddle in the politics of poor countries. But the poor countries have themselves gone to the United States and asked it to tie the noose around their heads. This is very strange.

Today, the United States is a spent force. It picks up what scraps it can around the world. As for the copyright matter, the United States cannot take action against Thailand, because it is not a member of this convention. However, as friendly countries, the United States and Thailand do have a special agreement with each other. The United States has asked the Thai government and ministries to apply the agreements in the Berne Convention to the United States, too. It wants copyright protection to apply to countries that have special agreements with the United States. The Thai government has complied. This is dismaying.

The Thai government has submitted a revised act concerning copyrights on literary works, art works, musical compositions, tapes, and video recordings, and this has been approved by the cabinet. This was done for the direct benefit of the United States. The United States will benefit while many Thai will suffer losses. Thai whose business activities concern tapes, videos, and musical compositions and Thai consumers will suffer. Thai who are involved in publishing and translating literary works, art books, and textbooks and Thai who read these books will suffer. In the future, children of school age will have fewer opportunities to read and learn about modern arts and science.

From what has been said above, it is clear whose interests our government has at heart. Dear MPs, please consider this matter carefully. Isn't the Prem government trying to preserve the "agreements" in order to benefit another country?

Columnist Assails Copyright Changes

Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 18 May 87 p 3

[Good Morning column by Mankon Halep: "We Are Their Slave"]

[Text] I once mentioned that the new millionaires in the United States belong to just a few professions. Those are: 1. oil, 2. banking, 3. real estate, and 4. publishing.

A very lucrative profession in the United States today is the publishing business. That seems very strange. Because people in Thailand remember the words "poor writers."

The reason why publishing is very lucrative in the United States is that many important people from around the world have fled there. If a person is well-known in society and flees to the United States, he doesn't need any money. People will contact him. He will be provided with a team of writers, who will know more than he does about what is happening in his country.

For example, suppose that you are the prime minister of a country named Sarakhan and that you encounter problems and have to flee to the United States temporarily. Someone will contact you and ask you to write a book entitled "My Seven Years as Prime Minister of Sarakhan" or "My Wonderful Life Before I Was Toppled."

Such books sell very well in the United States. Suppose that each book sells for \$2. If 10 million copies are sold, that is \$20 million, or 500 million baht.

You are named as the author. But actually, you don't have to write anything. Others will write everything for you. They will use your name. They know more about what happened before you fled than you do. All you have to do is help check the manuscript and make revisions.

Such pocketbooks sell remarkably well in the United States. The author, or person who supposedly wrote the autobiography, is paid a percentage of the total sales. For example, if an author receives 10 percent of the sales, his commission is 50 million baht on sales of 500 million baht. Thai have become rich from translating and selling these types of books. An example is "Loss of the Country" by Nguyen Cao Ky. But Thai will no longer be able to translate and sell these books here because of the copyright cost, or intellectual property charge. The cabinet has raised the white flag. It gave in to them last Tuesday. From now on, no one will translate books from the United States, because they can't pay the copyright charge. "Translating" by Mr Bunmak Phromphuai will have to be used to translate books from China or Japan. Or we may have to stop this altogether.

Americans have become wealthy from publishing books. But here, Thai will just remain poor. There will not be any intellectual fare for Thai to read. We will have to bow our heads and be their slaves.

I will continue to fight this. If parliament promulgates this law, we will have to appeal to the Revolutionary Council.

Editorial Blasts U.S.

Bangkok KHAO PHISIT in Thai 20-26 May 87 p 6

[Editorial: "The Intellectual Property Law (Again), Will We Take the Candy or Fight the Cowboys?"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. government, through the U.S. Trade Committee (U.S.-ITC), is trying to pressure the Thai government into accepting the intellectual property law and revising the copyright and patent laws in order to facilitate protecting American technological interests and goods in Thailand. This is an economic-political news item that has been of great interest to certain interest groups in Thai society during the past 2 months. And based on reports from high-level sources in business circles, there is a very strong possibility that the cabinet and Gen Prem will accept this law in principle. It is said that they will do this in exchange for trade benefits worth \$300 million under the U.S. general system of preferences (U.S. GSP) to be granted to Thai goods.

It is known that during the 1st and 2d quarters of this year, the U.S. economy encountered several problems and that this forced the Reagan administration and Congress to seek ways to retaliate against trade competitors who had disturbed American trade stability. Using protectionist policies as the

"leading flag" in solving the internal economic problems of the United States is characteristic of the Reagan administration's style of economic management under pressure from Congress. It seems that they are more concerned about political votes than free-trade agreements, which U.S. officials harp on constantly throughout the world. The cowboy culture is much more evident than liberal culture. This is deeply embedded in the American psyche. In particular, the cowboy culture becomes even more clear when it is used with smaller countries such as Thailand.

The cowboy culture to which we are referring here includes three things that the United States is using to attack the Thai government and the governments of other developing countries:

The United States has promulgated a trade law known as the Omnibus Trade Bill, which is a protectionist law aimed at third-world and newly-developed countries.

The United States is pressuring the Thai government to accept the ratification of the U.S. law on intellectual property and revise the Thai copyright, trademark, and patent laws. This would facilitate providing permanent protection for American goods in Thailand.

The United States is pressuring the Thai government to eliminate the legal conditions that pose an obstacle to the free trade of soybean meal from the United States.

U.S. officials cite at least three reasons for carrying on these three cowboy-type activities:

To ensure fairness in the international trade agreements accepted by the civilized countries of the world.

To maintain U.S. rights vis-a-vis Thailand in the GSP system.

To protect the rights and interests of American businesses, which are being assailed and whose ideas are being stolen by trade competitors throughout the world.

Looking at the effects of accepting the U.S. intellectual property law, it can be seen that both the copyright and patent laws will affect the fate of the people and the structure of production here. The ones who will benefit from these laws will be the producers (the American multinational corporations). It's true that there will be product protection guarantees. But they will also be in a position to set prices. It will not be the Thai government, the producers, or the traders who suffer. Rather, it is the consumers, who lack bargaining power, who will suffer.

The Thai government has only two things that it can do in managing the country's economy. It can accept the candy offered by the cowboys or it can grab a pistol and fight them. We feel that Thai officials must consider the laws on an individual basis using the following two criteria:

The laws that are enacted must not affect fairness with respect to consumption by the people in the country.

The laws that are enacted must not interfere with the self-reliance type development of the private enterprises in the country, which are the main production mechanism of the Thai economic structure.

Any revision of the copyright, trademark, and patent laws in accord with the intentions of the intellectual property law, which the United States is pressuring us to accept, must be based on the two criteria mentioned above. We feel that Thailand must take bold action and not fear any influence.

11943

CSO: 4207/226

THAILAND

RIVAL STUDENT GROUPS' POLITICS; LEADER INTERVIEWED

Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 29 Apr-5 May 87 pp 17-19

[Unattributed report: "Student Federation of Thailand Versus the National Student Council: Target Is To Gain the Initiative and Divide"]

[Text] Amidst the confusion in the present political situation, there is also confusion in the student movement, whose center is the Student Federation of Thailand (SFT). The confusion that has arisen among people in general and among the students stems from the fact that there is a new group, called the National Student Council, that has distributed leaflets several times during the past several months.

These leaflets, which have been issued in the name of the National Student Council, make it quite clear that this group supports the views of Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC, with respect to what he has said about a revolution. This is what has caused confusion among the people. Because while the National Student Council has issued these leaflets, the student movement under the leadership of the SFT has engaged in activities opposing the views of Gen Chawalit and even issued a statement to the effect that the SFT does not accept these views or recognize this group. It has stated that it will not recognize any student organization that may be formed in the future regardless of whether it is the National Student Council, the National Student Organization, or the National Youth and Student Union. It has called on this group to stop interfering and to stop trying to organize a student organization to engage in political activities in opposition to the SFT, which is confusing the people.

A news source who is close to and who is involved with the students told KHAO PHISET that those who call themselves the National Student Council began carrying on activities approximately 3-4 months ago. They agree with the idea of establishing a People's Council, which was proposed by Mr Prasoet Sapsunthon, the leader of the Labor Democracy Party. This student council is just part of the plan to gain the initiative and divide the student movement. Such activities have been carried on widely among the people in various provinces. This is in accord with the report about the movements of the "Revolutionary Council" that KHAO PHISET published in the last issue.

The news source also said that in an attempt to persuade students to support this view, people from the "Revolutionary Council" or "National Council" talked with certain students and groups and converted them to this view. They then established the National Student Council. They hold meetings at a house on Sasana Lane. Moreover, some of the students who have been persuaded have made statements that clearly show that they are enemies of the student movement. That is, they have said that the "Student Council will oppose the SFT in every way possible."

Mr Aphichat Khamdet, the present secretary general of the SFT, talked with KHAO PHISSET about this matter. He said that he doesn't want to criticize those students who allowed themselves to be persuaded. People hold a variety of opinions. People are free to believe what they want. But he said that he does blame those behind this, whom he identified as certain soldiers. He said that they are trying to destroy the student movement and confuse the people. Mr Aphichat said that he is sure that Mr Prasert's idea of establishing a People's Council is in response to the views of Big Chiu.

As for responding or correcting the image that people have of the students, the secretary general of the SFT said that the SFT will not respond in any way. "We will let our actions speak for themselves." An SFT statement confirms that the SFT is committed to maintaining parliamentary democracy in the interests of the majority of the people.

Let's take a look at the student movement today. Recently, there has been great tension between the political institution and the military institution. It can be said that during this period, the students have been the only democratic power group to come forward in defense of the democratic system. There is now much discussion about which direction democracy will take. This began when thahan phran irregulars surrounded the home of MR [royal title--FBIS] Khukrit Pramot. Representatives from the SFT went and presented flowers to both MR Khukrit and Gen Chawalit as a sign of their sincerity. And they wrote a letter asking the military to take responsibility for what had happened. Then there was the incident that took place in front of parliament on the day that the motion to hold a no-confidence debate on the entire cabinet was defeated because 15 MPs withdrew their names. The students had supported holding this no-confidence debate.

To show their support for democracy, the students held a march carrying black wreaths with the words "For the Traitorous MPs." They marched from parliament to the Democracy Monument, where they held a debate strongly attacking the 15 MPs and burned the wreaths. That evening, the students held another debate attacking the MPs who had withdrawn their names, the administration, the prime minister, and those who had engineered the defeat of the motion, that is, the military. About 2,000 people listened to this debate, which was held at Sanam Luang.

Ekkachai Ekkahankamon, the secretary general of the Labor Confederation of Thailand, talked with KHAO PHISSET about the attitude of the students that day. He said that the "students are quite pure. They love democracy very much. What they did was right." However, Mr Ekkachai is concerned about the fragmentation

of the student movement. This has weakened the students, and they are not getting the attention that they deserve.

The secretary general of the SFT frankly admitted that there are more students who share the same views than is generally thought. But their full power, or potential, has not been used. This is a problem that must be solved. However, the secretary general of the SFT said that no single individual can think about every issue. Thus, getting the students to cooperate on matters in which they are not very interested will take time. "People have different interests. There are some political issues in which few people are interested. But many people are interested in issues concerning the military."

In his capacity as the secretary general of the SFT this year, Mr Aphichat said confidently that the SFT will try to coordinate the activities of the student groups and other power groups outside parliament, such as labor groups and private organizations. In his view, it's time for all pro-democratic power groups, not just the students, to show a sense of responsibility and work together.

Interview with Aphichat Khamdet, the secretary general of the SFT

[Question] When did you first begin to play a role in the student movement in the SFT?

[Answer] In 1984. That was when I became a member of the SFT's central committee. At that time, I was attending the King Monkut's Institute of Technology, North Bangkok campus. I served as the executive committee member for public relations. In 1985 I joined the staff. In 1986 I served as the executive committee member for regional coordination. Today, I am the secretary general of the SFT. We held an election on 28 March and I became secretary general effective 1 April. I am now a student at Ramkhamhaeng University.

[Question] Based on your association with the SFT, how strong do you think the student movement is and how unified is it today?

[Answer] In general, I think that things have improved since I first became involved in 1984. Today, we have 11 central and regional university student organizations that share similar ideas. There are also independent organizations at the various universities that are ready to cooperate with us. This includes groups that are already members of the SFT and those that are in the process of joining the SFT. I think that there is rather close coordination between these organizations and that they are cooperating well with each other. It must be admitted, however, that the student movement is composed of many groups. There are other groups besides the SFT, including Buddhist groups and social development groups. I view all of these as part of the student movement. Each group has its own policy about carrying on activities. But overall, these groups share the same views and have the same goal. That is, we all want to preserve democracy and protect the interests of the majority of the people.

[Question] Today, it seems as if there is a great difference of opinion among students. A student movement known as the National Student Council has been formed. What is really happening?

[Answer] We admit that there is a variety of ideas. They have the right to think what they want. I am not criticizing them for this. But I do blame those who are in back of this, that is, the military. The National Student Council is a power group that shares the RTA CINC's views on social revolution. Their views are completely at odds with ours with respect to preserving parliamentary democracy. In my view, we can continue to carry on political activities within the parliamentary system. At the same time, we do not agree with the military's views about a presidium. In such a system, there is no way to check things. Certain military groups want to use the National Student Council to put pressure on students without the military having to do so directly. Instead, they will use these people.

[Question] In the present situation, there is the feeling that the students are attacking the military rather openly. What do the students really think about the military?

[Answer] We respect the professional soldiers, because they are doing their duty and serving the country. But we don't respect the political soldiers, who meddle in politics even though their duty is to carry out military tasks. These soldiers frequently claim that they love their country. But their actions have been at odds with their words. They may have good intentions. But we don't believe that their actions will benefit the country. They have talked about turning the northeast green within 5 years and selling rice for the farmers. Anyone can say that. But can they really do that? We are firmly opposed to soldiers having political power.

[Question] Some people in the government have said that students are part of the communist party's front. What do you think about this?

[Answer] (Laughs) I think that they are trying to smear the students. Whenever students disagree with the government or take a position that is different from that of the military, they view us as the enemy and portray us as communists. That may have been the case 10 years ago. Note that I used the word "may." But that is certainly not the case today. Why? Because we know that that won't work. It can't give us an answer.

[Question] As a student, is there anything that you would like to add?

[Answer] In terms of the responsibility shared by the various democratic power groups, there should be greater cooperation. Students aren't the only ones involved. Recently, the democratic forces have declined, because they haven't shown any interest in each other. I would like them to show greater interest. Today, the main enemies of the democratic movement are the political soldiers. Regardless of the form, we cannot accept this. Sometimes, we have to accept limitations in expressing ourselves. Everyone should have dreams about a

better future. Even though those dreams might not come true in this lifetime, they may come true during the lifetime of the next generation. Thus, everyone should think and dream and not lose heart. Even though the new form of society has not yet crystallized, we must eliminate the military from politics as soon as possible.

11943

CSO: 4207/214

THAILAND

EDITORIAL: PREM SHOULD STAND FOR ELECTION

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 1-16 May 87 p 2

[Editorial: "The Choices of Gen Prem"]

[Excerpt] Gen Prem has been prime minister for more than 7 years. But he has not stood for election even once even though he has had many chances. With respect to the election following Prem's decision to dissolve parliament, besides showing who--the administration or parliament--acted in accord with the wishes of the people, that election also promoted the principle of administration in a political party system.

In view of the fact that Gen Prem has refused to run for election or join a political party, with his only desire being to serve as prime minister, it's only normal to wonder how much popular support he has. The praise and criticism that he gets cannot be used to measure his popularity. And the pro-government political parties are not viewed as real representatives of the people. This is because these MPs never told the people in advance that if elected, they planned to support Gen Prem for the position of prime minister. Conversely, the opposition parties cannot be used to measure how dissatisfied the people are with Gen Prem, because they did not announce their opposition to Gen Prem in advance. And many of these people were members of previous Prem administrations. The reason they are now members of the opposition is that Gen Prem did not bring them into the administration.

However, the fact that Gen Prem has been prime minister so long has begun to shake the confidence of the people, who once had great hopes for democracy in Thailand. Thus, if Gen Prem wants to remain prime minister, we feel that he should dissolve parliament and run for a seat in parliament. If he doesn't want to be prime minister, he should resign and get out of politics so that people don't view him as someone who is blocking democracy, which is already the view of some people.

11943

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THAILAND

BACKGROUND TO FURTHER F16 PURCHASE DISCUSSED

Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 7 May 87 pp 30, 31

[Unattributed report: "A Stir at Dong Muang Today: Purchase of Another Eight F16 Aircraft "Breaks" Both A7 Aircraft and Air Chief Marshal"]

[Text] Three years ago, we wanted to purchase a multipurpose fighter aircraft in order to bolster the combat strength of our air force. The F5 E/F aircraft that we had was no match for the aircraft used by Vietnamese forces, which the Soviet Union had equipped with modern Mig 23 aircraft. And they planned to deliver additional Mig 21 aircraft to Laos and Cambodia. This would have changed the ratio, which was already 1:4, even more in their favor. Thus, in an attempt to find an aircraft equivalent to the Mig 23, we began looking at the F16 A/B built by General Dynamics and the F20 Tiger Shark. The discussions by the air force and the arguments about this grew very heated. This was viewed as a major issue, and it reached the point where Gen Athit Kamlangek, the then supreme commander, had to step in and make a decision on this.

On 20 April, an additional number of fighter aircraft were purchased. But this did not make the headlines this time, because the discussions were carried on very quietly and Air Chief Marshal Praphan Thupatemi, the RTAF CINC, made a very speedy decision to purchase an additional eight F16 A/B aircraft.

Purchase Directly Without Agent

This new shipment of eight F16 A/B aircraft are being purchased directly from the producer, that is, General Dynamics in the United States, without going through an agent in Thailand and without using the government-to-government purchasing system. These aircraft have been purchased at a price of \$35 million each, or approximately 910 million baht.

The original order was for 16 F16 A/B aircraft to be delivered in 1988. Subsequently, plans were made to purchase an additional four aircraft for delivery in 1990. But when the baht was devalued in 1985, these plans had to be abandoned. That is, there was enough money to purchase only 12 aircraft because of the decline in the value of the baht. In the wake of this, Gen Athit Kamlangek appeared on television and criticized the government. Thus, this purchase of an additional eight F16 aircraft will bring the number up to

the original number planned, that is, 20. If the baht had not been devalued at that time, we would have been able to purchase 16 aircraft and an additional 4 aircraft later on instead of having to order another 8 aircraft as was done on 20 April. The original delivery schedule will probably be adhered to, that is, 12 aircraft will be delivered at the beginning of next year and the other 8 will be delivered in 1990. Thus, the purchase of this multipurpose fighter aircraft has proceeded as originally planned.

Have To Grin and Bear It

A news source in the air force said that in deciding to purchase an additional eight F16 A/B aircraft, the air force has not requested any additional funds. It is using money from its budget to purchase these aircraft. It will pay the producer in installments just as in the case of the first 12 aircraft. Having to pay for these aircraft in installments without any special budget allocation is something that the air force will just have to grin and bear. That is, it will take a long time to get used to having to allocate budget funds to pay for these aircraft.

One thing that is clear is that now that the decision has been made to purchase these F16 aircraft, it will be difficult to purchase mid-size transport aircraft to replace the C47 and C123 aircraft as planned. We can't purchase fighter aircraft and transport aircraft at the same time. We will have to continue using those aircraft, such as the C123 aircraft, that can still fly. Fighter aircraft, particularly multipurpose, high performance aircraft that can be used as fighter, intercept, and attack aircraft, are much more important.

Taking a Deeper Look

Our news source said that even though the purchase of another eight F16 aircraft to raise the total number to 20 is in accord with the original plan, there is also another "deep" issue at Don Muang. That is, the purchase of mid-size transport aircraft is the project of a "senior person." Action has been taken, and the matter has almost been "completed." But now that the decision to purchase these additional F16 aircraft has been made in order to bring the total number to 20 in accord with the original plan, this means that money earmarked for the purchase of aircraft will have to be used to pay for the F16 aircraft and that the purchase of the transport aircraft will probably have to be postponed, because the funds available are insufficient to purchase both types of aircraft simultaneously.

"The program to purchase transport aircraft is definitely in trouble, because there is not enough money. Another view is that this has solved a problem. Because the purchase of these transport aircraft was posing problems. The image presented was not very good. The "racetrack" of the merchants was quite open. At the same time, the senior people in the air force all had different views. LAK THAI described the situation correctly when it said that the 'wind has shifted direction,'" said a senior news source at Dong Muang.

"Beyond" Rather Than "Deep"

LAK THAI has also been told that the purchase of F16 A/B aircraft is an old matter, with additional aircraft purchased to bring the number up to the planned number of 20 and with the first 12 to be delivered next year. The purchase of the additional eight aircraft should not pose any problem, because this is part of the old program and does not require further discussion. One reason given for having to speed up the purchase of these aircraft is that if this is delayed, the price will increase. But another reason is that three F5 A aircraft crashed during the fighting at Chong Bok. As a result, we are short on fighter aircraft and must quickly purchase new aircraft in accord with the program.

"As for purchasing additional F16 A/B aircraft to bring the number up to 20 in accord with the plan, after the first 12 aircraft were purchased, it was said that the purchase of additional aircraft would have to be reconsidered and that the additional aircraft did not have to be F16 A/B aircraft. This is subject to change as appropriate. There are frequent changes in flying circles and so the original plan should not be adhered to. One senior person in the air force supported purchasing A7 aircraft. This is a superb aircraft for short-range operations within a small area such as Thailand. The U.S. National Guard air forces (not the U.S. Air Force) is now using this aircraft. This is more an air-to-ground attack aircraft than an air-to-air aircraft. That is, it is not as effective in engaging enemy aircraft. Initially, it was not thought that any more F16 A/B aircraft would be purchased. It was thought that we would purchase only the 12 F16s already ordered. Because the A7 had made a very strong impression," said the high-level news source to LAK THAI. He added that when the decision was made to revive the old program and purchase additional F16 Aircraft, the idea of purchasing A7 aircraft instead of F16 aircraft was crushed immediately. And those at Don Muang know who was crushed.

"This has created quite a stir, because it has crushed two other programs. That is, we can't purchase transport aircraft. Our budget is limited and so we can't purchase both at the same time. The purchase of transport aircraft will have to wait. Also, it has been decided to purchase aircraft based on the original plan, that is, we will purchase F16 A/B aircraft. We will not purchase a new type of aircraft as some wanted," said the high-level news source from Don Muang in conclusion.

11943
CSO: 4207/215

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